The question was put and the motion was adopted.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SANATAN BISI): Now, we shall take up clause-by-clause consideration of the Bill.

Clause; 2 and 3 were added to the Bill.

Clause 1, The Enacting Formula and the Title were added to the Bill.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: Sir, I move:

"That the Bill be passed."

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: Sir, I would like to formally thank the honourable Members for their cooperation.

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI): Sir, my apology to the House for having come late.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SANATAN BISI): Now, we shall take up the Short Duration Discussions.

SHORT DURATION DISCUSSION

I. HAVOC caused by recent cyclone floods in Orissa, Andhra Pradesh, West Bengal and other parts.

SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY (Andhra Pradesh): Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, with your permission I raise a discussion on the havoc and deaths caused by the recent cyclone in Orissa, Andhra Pradesh and other parts of the country. Sir, before I come to my State of Andhra Pradesh, I express my full sympathy and solidarity, in this hour of suffering, with the people of Orissa and Bengal. Particularly; in Orissa 120 people dies and this cyclone caused extensive damage to crops and property. Sir, now again, unfortunately, there is a danger of a severe cyclone, which is likely to hit the coastal districts of Andhra Pradesh, Orissa and Bengal, either today or tomorrow. Sir, now I come to my State, Andhra Pradesh. Already, my State, Andhra Pradesh, was facing severe drought conditions in 12 districts out of the 23 districts. Our honourable Prime Minister was kind enough to send a team for assessment of the losses that have been caused due to drought conditions. Andhra Pradesh is expecting the release of Rs. 200 crores at any moment, as an aid towards relief measures in those districts. Unfortunately, the recent cyclone, which caused a heavy damage in Orissa State, also hit the Srikakulam district of Andhra Pradesh. Due to the severe cyclone, over 4 lakh coconut plantations have been uprooted and another 4 lakh plantations were partially damaged in Srikakulam district of Andhra Pradesh. The loss of coctonut plantations,

12.00 Noon

according to preliminary estimates is to the tune of Rs. 200 crores. Apart from coconut plants, cashew and other crops were also damaged. Sir, various departments, like, roads, buildings, telecom and power-lines suffered losses to the tune of Rs. 50 crores. Communications and power installations have been badly damaged in several villages. Thirty-one drinking water sources failed in many villages. There is an acute shortage of drinking water. Three deaths were also reported in the wake of heavy rains induced by the cyclone. Sir, I am highly grateful to Prime Minister for his aerial survey of Orissa and some parts of Andhra Pradesh. The farmers in these areas should be paid compensation, at the same rate at which the farmers in the Konaseema region were paid during the previous cyclone. Our Chief Minister has already stated the details of the losses caused due to the cyclone and requested the hon'ble Prime Minister to release Rs. 50 crores for relief measures. I also appeal to the Government of India to release Rs. 40 crores immediately. With these words, I conclude.

SHRI V. KISHORE CHANDRA S. DEO (Andhra Pradesh): Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak on the subject. It is both unfortunate and ironical that while we are discussing today the havoc that was caused in certain areas due to the cyclone that came about 10-12 days ago, the other cyclone is right now hitting the same areas, even before two weeks have elapsed and even before the thousands of people in those affected areas have limped back to their normal life. Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, cyclones have become almost an annual feature in our country. Over the last several decades, we have been suffering, almost every year, from the effects of the devastation caused by cyclones on the Eastern Coast. What has differed is only the intensity of damage that is being caused in the areas that have almost been identified. Sir, I come from the State of Andhra Pradesh, an area which is a border between the State of Andhra Pradesh and the State of Orissa. Mr. Vice-Chairman, more than a decade ago, there was a place called Divi Taluka in Andhra Pradesh, where the tidal waves had swept across from one end to the other. Certain areas like Machilipatnam in, Kalingapatnam and Srikakulam in Andhra Pradesh, certain pockets of Orissa, which have now been affected, and certain parts of Bengal have, for several decades year after, been victims of the nature's fury.

Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, the State Government of Orissa has already sent a report on the damages that had been caused because of the last cyclone. Even before these measures could reach the people, yet another cyclone is hitting them today. I do not know what would be the condition of the poor people there right now, because the Meteorological Department has announced that gales and winds would be reaching a speed of 200 kilometres an hour, when they lash the Eastern Coast of Orissa and Bengal today right now.

Sir, what worries me is that, over the years, we have been adopting a kind of fire fighting approach to these problems. As the problem comes, the State Government writes to the Centre, asking for a team to be sent there to assess the damage caused. Report of the damage is sent and some money is released for providing relief to the affected State, whether it is my State of Andhra or Orissa. This money is given as a loan on an *ad hoc* basis. Many times, this is adjusted against the Plan outlays, which would be given to the States. Well, the people of the State get some relief because of the measures that have gone to them momentarily, but, unfortunately, nothing permanent has been done to save the people from these recurring natural disasters, which have been occurring year after year.

Sir, I think it is hightime the Central Government, as well as for State Governments affected by such calamities sit and think of permanent solution to these problems. When I say permanent solutions, I know neither the State Government, nor the Central Government, can stop a depression occurring from the Bay of Bengal or stop a cyclone sweeping across the coast. That is not what I mean. But, we should look at it from a more positive and permanent point of view, in the sense that a national natural calamity fund should be raised and when any national calamity arises, whether it is due to cyclone, or earthquake or drought or flood—these are not uncommon to our country—such a fund should be utilized for that purpose.

Sir, as I told you, these cyclones have been occuring in these areas year after year. The only factor which has been different from one to another is the intensity of the cyclone, the damage it has caused. But the phenomenon has been constant. Why is it that we have not been able to construct any permanent cyclone shelters in these cyclone-prone areas? I think, the Central Government should take the lead in this matter, discuss with the State Governments, make a plan for this and see that permanent cyclone-shelters are erected in these cyclone-prone areas, because they have been hitting specific parts year after year. In Orissa, I think, it is either Paradeep or Baliapad or Kalingapatnam in Andhra Pradesh. From experience we know what these places are. As far as the eviction of these people from these areas is concerned, whatever anyone may say, it is very, very difficult to do that because people don't listen to you. Sometimes there have been warnings that within 48 hours or 72 hours ahead of such disaster one should evacuate. It is very, very difficult to persuade the people to leave their homes and leave their lands. You have to overcome that. I think a constant effort has to be made, a concerted effort has to be made, to see that these people are rehabilitated elsewhere. after a cyclone, many people are rendered homeless. As far as these calamities are concerned, attempts should be made to regroup and rehabilitate them in areas which can be considered as safer places.

Likewise, there is a particular area where it is earthquake prone. It is identified as an earthquake zone. Then, you rehabilitate them. You give them hopes to mover to safer places. Likewise, when a cyclone occurs, you identify those areas. We know the areas where these things happen. I think it should be the responsibility of the Central Government to see that housing facility and other infrastructural facilities are provided in safer areas so that they could be shifted to those areas, if not, at one time, at least, slowly from where they can come and operate on their land or take possession of their belongings. But they should be away from winds, hurricanes, crossing the coast.

Likewise, Mr. Vice-Chairman, every time the cyclone hits, we find that the communication system entirely collapses. Why is it that we have not been able to establish communication channels to these places; at least, to the nearest places where such disasters have occurred, from areas or zones which are not prone to such calamities? I don't think that should be a big problem today. I mean, the National Highways, you Railways, Telecommunication facilities, everything gets cut-off. Are there no other routes? It may cost more. The cost factor is also important. Now, you have underground cables. You have satellite connections. You can have roads and lines which don't go all along the coast. You can go from some interior place and connect these places near to these coast. These are the kind of efforts that need to be done. It is just not enough to pay lip-sympathy when such disasters occur, or, for a group of us to go as a team to recommend to the Central Government to give some funds, which are given. Well, a lot of these funds, as I said earlier, do reach the people. A lot of them are not utilized. But the fact is that none of these things is helpful to them, on a permanent basis. My demand is that this should be looked at from a long-term point of view and with an intention to see that these people get permanent relief, not just in relation to what has happened 10 days ago or what is happening today.

Mr. Vice-Chairman, the other big problem during the cyclone in such areas is that, a lot of land also becomes saline. The salt water comes in. We had the experience in my State. Even after the water recedes, for years together, due to salinity, crops just don't come up in these areas. I think, many a time, these things are forgotten later on because what happens is immediately you rush funds. Then the funds are utilized for providing clothing, maybe food, some kind of a temporary shelter, sometimes medicines. Epidemics often break out but ultimately, when these people want to go back and settle down in the areas, they find that the land is useless. They cannot cultivate anything. Then it takes several years to rid the salinity from the land. It affects these lands; it could have destroyed the fertility of the soil during calamity like this. I think these are various factors to which we have to apply our mind. I would appeal to the Central Government to liberally grant now

whatever aid these State Governments need because it is not a question of overcoming a problem which has already taken place, but it has also to face another problem which is ahead right now, probably, tomorrow or the day after, we will the kind know of damage or disaster this cyclone would have caused at a gale speed of 260 kms or 150 miles an hour. We can only pray to God and hope that many lives have not been lost, that many more people have not been rendered homeless in this short span of time. But, Mr. Vice-Chairman, these are issues which also should be taken up on the basis of national consensus. These are not things or issues on which any political party should try to gain any political mileage. I am not making any allegation but I am just saying it because sometimes, earlier experience has shown us that due to political reasons also work has suffered and the initiation of fresh efforts regarding such problems has happened. I wish that should not take place in future. These are humanitarian considerations. After all, why is the Central Government there if it cannot come to the aid and help of State Governments at times like these? It is not a question of just doling out something by way of charity, irrespective of whichever political party is ruling here or there. It is a humane consideration common to all of us. While I would appeal to the Central Government to liberally assist these States by way not only of money but also of medicines and all other help and aid that they can give from the Centre, I would again sincerely like to make an appeal to the Central Government and to all other leaders to see that certain permanent measures, which I have already suggested, are discussed and some kind of a paper is prepared and action on this is started fortwith without any delay. Thank you.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SANATAN BISI): Shri Venkaiah Naidu.

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU (Andhra Pradesh): I thank you, Mr. Vice-Chairman. It is sad that the coastal States of India are frequently facing this situation when there is any flood or cyclone which is causing a lot of damage to the people. Unfortunately, today also, we have the news that again cyclone is getting concentrated on the State of Orissa. We only pray that there is no loss of human life. But, unfortunately, Sir, what has been happening over the years is that those people who are living in the coastal belt of the country are becoming victims of the vagaries of nature. Time and again, they are being hit. Ideas come that they should be shifted to safer places, but the people are not willing to leave those shores because they have to depend, for their livelihood, on the fishing activity or salt manufacturing or on other related agricultural activities. That being the case,those people are never willing to go out of those places. Unfortunately for the State of Orissa, there was a major effect of that cyclone. In this cyclone, as per the estimates of the State Government property worth more than Rs. 2000 crores is lost by both the public and the Government. Around 200 people are

reported to have died. It is mostly in Ganjam District. Around 116 people lost their lives. The Districts of Keonjhar, Puri, Dhenkanal and Gajapati are affected in the recent cyclone. We do not know what places are concentrated in today's cyclone.

Even in the case of Andhra Pradesh, Srikakulam District, particularly Icchapuram and Kaviti, are hit by the cyclone. The worst affected is Gopalpur, Berhampur District. Not only this. The adjacent States of West Bengal and Bihar also were hit by floods recently and there was a lot of inconvenience to the people in those two States also. In the State of Bihar, we have seen that Dumka District and also in Santhal Pargana, which covers five district, more than 30,000 people were rendered homeless and property worth crores of rupees has been lost. There is no proper coordination also with regard to water raising system between the Bengal Government and the Bihar Government due to which the flood situation got aggravated there. So far as the loss is concerned, whether it is caused by floods or cyclones and whether it is caused in Bengal, Bihar, Orissa or Andhra Pradesh, the loss is for the people. So, all the State Governments should work in more coordination with each other to mitigate the sufferings of the people. In addition to this, the losses that are reported are all Government figures. If you really go in terms of actual losses, it will be much more. The coconut crop is the worst casualty. I have the figures for Srikakulam district where four lakh trees were totally uprooted and another four lakh trees were partially damaged. Eight lakh trees! You know, Sir, that ten coconut tress can sustain a full family if they give proper yield. (Interruptions) That being the case, that means if you lose coconut crop, you lose everything. Those people in that area particularly depend only on this particular crop. Same is the case with cattle breeders, rural artisans; whether it is a potter or a blacksmith or a washerman or even a fisherman in that area, they lost their implements as well as their livelihood. It is a matter of grave concern that these sections are continuously facing the fury of the nature everytime. Sir, whatever has happened has happened. But unfortunately, we, as a nation, are not able to really come to the rescue of these people. Forget politics. The Prime Minister has visited the State, made an aerial survey. Other political leaders have also visited the State. Members of Parliament also have gone to some of the areas which were accessible. For some time to come, these people will be visiting those areas. But the basic question is: "Can we have a national policy on these matters? You have a National Calamity Relief Fund." The amount is fixed as per the recommendations. But, Sir in certain States, for example, the State of Andhra Pradesh, the money has already been exhausted on that account. Even with regard to the finance of Orissa, the situation is very, very disappointing there because the Government does not have enough money for its regular activity, leave alone this cyclone relief.

So, this being the case, we go, we see and then we make statements saying that this particular calamity should be declared as a national calamity. Anytime, anywhere, if flood or drought or cyclone happens, as representatives of various political parties, we rush to that area and make a statement that this particular thing should be declared as a national calamity. So, for this, what I suggest is that the Centre should call a meeting of the Chief Ministers. After all, we are a federal country. The Prime Minister and the Chief Ministers, the Central Government and the State Governments, we all have a responsibility towards people. How can we meet such a situation? These are not rare occasions. I have my own information. Shri V. Kishore Chandra Deo was saying about Divi Seema. Right from 1977 to 1999, in these twenty-two years, Andhra Pradesh had seventeen cyclones. Imagine! Everytime people living in those areas are affected—farmers are affected, artisans are affected and the poor people are deprived of their livelihood. You give them some utensils, you give then rice and you give them something for that immediate maintenance. Subsequently, to rehabilitate them, proper planning, proper assistance is not forthcoming because of lack of funds. It is a reality—whether it is the Government of India, whether it is the State Government of Orissa or West Bengal or Andhra Pradesh, every Government is facing the same problem because there is a huge deficit in their budget also. That being the case, can we devise some mechanism wherein these victims of the vagaries of nature, particularly the victims of cyclone are taken care of by the nation itself rather than leaving it to the State Governments? It is very easy to say that the Central Government should give assistance worth thousands of crores of rupees. You know that there is a huge fiscal deficit here also. That being the case, what is the way out? That is why I suggest that the Government of India should take initiative. I read in the newspapers that when a mention was made to the hon'ble Prime Minister during his visit to Orissa, he said: "Yes, this has to be discussed and then a permanent solution has to be found." You cannot stop cyclone; you cannot fully stop floods, you cannot stop drought also because it is not in your hands. So, what are the measures? Once measure, which is much talked about, is the Crop Insurance Scheme. The Crop Insurance Scheme, —perhaps, I mentioned in the Budget, last year—with a modest amount of 100 crores of rupees should be made into a full-fledged Crop Insurance Scheme on a long-term basis. What are the ways to strengthen this; You strengthen this corporation, which is going to be set up for the Crop Insurance Scheme on the lines of GIC, LIC and other Corporations; you lave to educate the people, you have to involve the farming community also. They have asked us to make some contribution by way of a premium. The Government survives in two ways, one, by the public paying the taxes; second, by public borrowings from outside. The Government cannot resort to printing and then giving money. That being the case, it is high time that there

was a broad consensus arrived at by all the political parties and by all the States that we should move in the direction of further enlarging, strengthening the Crop Insurance Scheme. That is one remedy that can be made available to the people on a long-term basis. We have already spent enough time on this issue for so many years. We have been talking about it. I don't blame anybody on this account. this is not the occasion also. It is time that a broad consensus was built up and everybody took up the responsibility of educating the people and involving the farming community. If a farmer is losing his entire crop, a premium of two hundred of rupees will not be a big burden on him. To start with the small farmers, the Government thus can come forward with the premium, and for the other farmers, the farmers can be involved in that activity.

In addition to this, there has to be a compulsory insurance scheme for the fishermen also. I can tell you, Sir my Government in Andhra Pradesh have now got expertise with regard to the staggering of the cyclone situation, an advance warming system for evacuation of people. After repeated warnings, warning number one, two, three, four, five, six, sometimes, they have to remove the people against their wish. If after the warning no cyclone occures, people become angry; they fight with the officers, collectors and all otheis. But you can't take a chance. If something happens, the human loss will be very high. That being the base, the Government of Andhra Pradesh has specialized the art of evacuating people or giving necessary assistance to the people during cyclones.

In addition to this, as I was suggesting, unless you go in for other methods like the insurance scheme for fishermen, the fishermen cannot live and do the fishing activity. They have no other avocation. The amount of literacy amongst the fishermen is also very less. This is another casualty. That being the case, we should focus more attention on that. I urge upon the Government to go in for compulsory insurance for the fishermen community.

The third category, as I have been mentioning, was about the rural artisans who depend on the strength of their hands and their skills—the potters, the watermen, the blacksmiths and cattle breeders who earn their livelihood on cattle breeding, particularly sheep. Nowadays, goat raising has become very rare because all forests are now not available for these people. For these sections you must come forward with a scheme for their insurance; otherwise, you cannot pay compensation with any amount of money. If a farmer loses his crop and if you have to compensate, the entire Budget of the Government of India will not be sufficient. I have information from my State. During the last two cyclone, the farmers have lost an amount of Rs. 25,000 crores. Rs. 25,000 crores! How can any Government really compensate it? The Government's hands are tied up with relief and a little

amount of rehabilitation. Not to speak of the wider issue of sustaining these people in their own activity, we are not even able to focus our attention on that because the money that is coming is some five hundred rupees or one thousand rupees, in some States two thousand rupees, and then two hundred rupees for fish, and then 15 kgs. or 25 kgs. of rice for sustenance during the calamity period and then afterwards the people feel that the activity is over. Then the remaining thing is repair of roads, repair of telecommunication, repair of bridges and repair of other things. So, where is the money for other activities? Now you need some fishermen. They have lost their boats. Some fishermen have lost their nets. So, you have to come to their rescue and then help them to get the boats, repair the boats or get back the nets. That is one activity.

The second activity, as I said, is of the artisans. Suppose, whatever work sheds they had, they collapsed. The amount, which you have given, five hundred rupees, is not sufficient to get them back to their activity. For that, you will have to think in some sort of a meaningful manner. That is why I suggest that the Government of India should call a meeting of the Chief Ministers and go into this wider issue of how to minimize the damage, by a proper evacuation and education; how to rehabilitate them on a permanent basis and how to sustain their activity, i.e. their livelihood. This is another point. And how to compensate for the damage? This can be done only by way of insurance. No Government, worth the name, can come to the rescue of the farmers, or, the artisans in a full-scale manner because the resources are very limited. So, I urge upon the Government and I request all the political parties also to come to an understanding on this issue.

The National Calamity Relief Fund is given to all the States. The nation should be concerned about only those States which are affected by floods, or, cyclone, or, drought. If you distribute it to all the State—each State has got a quota—the amount gets exhausted.

Then they are without any money. And they ask the Central Government to give money. The Central Government can only give that money which it gets by way of advance, or, assistance.

Now, Rs. 200 crores have been given to Orissa, in the first instance. And the hon. Prime Minister was kind enough to say that he will give Rs. 50 crores immediately. But once you spend that money, your eligibility is over. Afterwards, what can you do? There are some State which do not have money even for paying salaries. So, this has to be kept in mind.

About the situation in Orissa, I am sorry to say, proper evacuation was not done. There was no coordination at the ground level. The reason may be, their lack of experience in that particular area. I don't know what the reason is. I have reports from my own units in the States and the districts. People

see a marked difference in what is happening in Srikakulam and what is happening in Gajapathi and Berahampur. This should not happen. If some good things are done by the neighbouring States, one should go there, find out and then educate their officer about how this is being dealt with by the neighbouring States. That should be the attitude with regard to these things. There is no political angle to this human tragedy. That being the case, I also suggest to the Government-because, today also, we had another warning signal from Orissa; by afternoon, we will come to know about the fury of the cyclone—that they should train the officers in the coastal districts in a proper manner so that they can take all the necessary steps to minimize the damage and evacuate the people, to the maximum extent possible.

Sir, with regard to the people who lost their houses in these two States, what I suggest is that the Indira Awas Yojana, which is now being called the Swarnajayanti Yojana,—some name has been given to it—should be extended to all those people who lost their houses. They should be given all priority because they have lost everything. In case of damage to houses you get some Rs. 22,000/- for each house. The system is that, the beneficiary contributes an amount of Rs. 1000/-, the HUDCO given Rs. 5 crores, the State Government gives Rs. 7000/-, and the Central Government gives Rs. 7000/-. This is one way of involving the people in house construction. This Scheme should be extended to all the people who are affected by this cyclone in these two States, and also to the people who are affected by the floods in Bengal, Bihar and certain other parts of Madhya Pradesh also. The Central Government should call for the report from the States. I hope the States are smart enough by this time to send the report to the Government for proper assessment and help.

Vaccines are needed for mass deworming of the livestock. Money for vaccines also should come by way of assistance and grant from the Government of India. With regard to the cattle breeders, Insurance Corporations and Banks should be involved in this activity of refinancing those people by giving them cattle loans. The banks do not give a fresh loan unless the previous loan is paid back. But in this case, the Government should advise the banks in the concerned States to come forward with the margin money and advance them to the people for starting their activity. A certain amount of damage was done to the minor irrigation tanks. These things should be tackled immediately and they should be repaired at the earliest because, in the tanks, there are breaches. The crops are lost. The future crops will also be lost. Normally, tanks are repaired after 6 months or one year. I have seen it, sometimes, in my own State also. Because of lack of funds, the repair work of minor irrigation tanks goes on in a very tardy way. That being the case, this aspect should also be kept in mind. I don't want to go into the details of other things. With regard to horticulture also, there are

certain schemes with the Government of India, for the farmers who had lost their crops, particularly, coconut growers. The Centre has to give some assistance to these people. The State Government alone cannot do it. I am happy that the Orissa Government has given the necessary assistance. I request the Government of India and the Minister also, who happens to be from the State of Andhra Pradesh—he is a farmer himself and he has also got knowledge of agricultural problems and the sufferings of the rural artisans—to take up these issues and get adequate assistance to the State of Andhra Pradesh also. The damage was more in Orissa. It is quite but natural that Orissa was given immediate assistance by the Prime Minister. In the case of Andhra Pradesh also, even if the damage is limited to one district, I urge upon the Government of India to come to the rescue of the people of Andhra Pradesh by giving the required support. The Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh has sent a detailed memorandum to the Government of India. The cyclone happened on the 17th and 18th. The Government of Andhra Pradesh came to the Government of India with a detailed memorandum on the 21st. Within four days, the Government of Andhra Pradesh was able to assess the entire damage and come with a detailed note or request to the Government of India, and the Government of India had sent a team and all that. This should really be a model to all the people and all the States should follow this model. On that count, I urge upon the Government of Orissa from this House that they should match the amount that was given by the Government of India with their resources in coming to the rescue of the affected people in the State. Orissa is so poor. Sir, you are also from that State. If one goes to Orissa only, one will understand what kind of poverty is there in this country and how certain States are really underdeveloped. You look at the other States. I come from the south; the southern States are better developed, in comparison to the States of Orissa, Bihar and Madhya Pradesh in this belt, and, to some extent, West Bengal. West Bengal has got a green belt. I am talking about other areas. That being the case, special attention should be given to the State of Orissa. It is not a question of your belonging to that State or my belonging to some other State. We should identify as to which are the weaker sections and they have to be given relief by the Government of India, keeping aside other considerations, whatever may be the political combination that is ruling in the State or at the Centre. It is the responsibility of the nation as a whole and I urge upon the Chief Ministers and the Government of India to come to an understanding, in consultation with, if necessary, the Finance Commission on how to tackle this issue of natural calamities. If they are small in nature, the State Governments can take care of. But it is going to be a continuous affair and the States are put to strain every time. So, it is better that the Government of India and the States come to an understanding. After all,

they have to share the revenue, the responsibility and burden and they have to see how best they can do it and go to the rescue of the affected people. In a village, if a family is affected by any natural calamity, the village comes to his rescue. It has its own way. This is our tradition, our culture, our system. The approach of the States should be similar to that. Some States are fortunate that they have no cyclones. Some States are unfortunate that they have cyclones all the time. Some States are always having drought. Certain States are very fortunate that they have no drought, no cyclones, and have good developmental activities. That being the case, the entire nation should take it as a responsibility of the nation and we have to find some sort of a permanent solution in this regard. I hope the Government of India will take the initiative for calling a meeting of the Chief Ministers, come to a consensus on this issue and take permanent measures in this regard. Thank you.

SHRI NILOTPAL BASU (West Bengal): Mr. Chairman, Sir, as we are discussing this subject, we have information that a very strong gale has again hit the Orissa-Bengal coasts and there has been severe damage. Actually, the whole issue of cyclone and floods and, perhaps, the wider issue of natural calamities deserves more serious attention from the nation as a whole. We understand that the subject is being studied not only in the countries which are prone to such vagaries of nature, but, currently we are also observing, through the United Nations, The Decade On Natural Calamities. The United Nations itself has come up with the first Natural Disaster Report and it has suggested, after a very wide consultation with expert bodies, representatives of national Governments, NGOs, certain permanent solutions to the question, how to better manage the aftermath of such natural disasters. But, unfortunately, there is also some conceptual drawback in our approach. I do not know whether it has occurred to us or not. Mr. Venkaiah Naidu has given a very enlightened interpretation of this whole question. It is not only the question that Andhra Pradesh has had 17 cyclones in the last decade. What is required to be seen is the intensity of the impact and also the interconnection between the natural calamity and the kind of ecological systems that we are having. It is a very serious question and it is not only a question of coordination between the State Governments and the State agencies because in the Eastern side — the Members from the North-East are there — it has actually become an annual feature. Floods are a permanent scourge in this area. Yesterday Kamlaji was describing the situation in Bihar, while speaking on the President's Address. The river system that we have in the North-East and the Eastern part, is such that most of these are international rivers. Now, Mr. Naidu was talking of lack of coordination between the Bihar Government and the West Bengal Government, insofar as the release of water from the barrages, the dams and the river systems is concerned. He

was quoting about the efficiency with which the Andhra Government presented the detailed memorandum and all that. It is very good, but, in Bengal also, this flood havoc was there on or around 23rd or 24th of September, and the first detailed memoranda came on the 30th of September. And the next detailed memorandum was sent on the 7th of October. They have also annexed the details about the entire river levels, the gauge readings and the daily water release from the dams. Now, there is the problem of erosion at some places. I do not know what kind of a natural disaster it would have been if the rivers happened to be the Padma and the Ganga. There is only one bridge which is extended only upto a distance of one kilometre. If this calamity had taken place here, I do not know what would have happened. It is a question of soil erosion, question of rising of the water level due to silt-gathering on the river bed and the kind of dredging that will have to be done to really take care of the river systems and to manage the water flow. Though it is very good, it involves a stupendous cost. We are certainly at one with the suggestions made by Shri Naidu. But one cannot but reflect on the political approach. Now, we are having a controversy on the IRA Bill. Now the whole issue is this. More than employment you are talking about insurance. We feel that that will be the main solution. But will these private insurance companies be prepared to provide the kind of insurance that we are talking about? After the elections, all of us are talking about rural infrastructure and all that. We know that Rs. 2,25,000 crores came from the public section insurance companies during the Eighth Plan period. Now we do not know, with the kind of new scenario that is going to emerge whether we can address the needs of social infrastructure projects. That will be necessary. The other day, the Leader of the House, while replying to the debate asked, "What is the lesson of this election?" They are object poverty of the people, lack of infrastructure, roads, primary health, primary education and, the additional kind of insurance for these people who are ravaged by natural disasters. It is not a question of natural disaster alone. Along with that, the question of national disaster management will have to be decided at the national level on the basis of a national consensus. It has to be an integrated approach. It has its bearing on your economic policy. It has its impact on the kind of instruments that you choose for the development. I think these are the issues which are to be reflected upon. By merely stating that there has to be a national consensus across the political spectrum, I think we cannot achieve the kind of functional consensus that is necessary to address the problem of a huge dimension that is ravaging the country. We have no problem. We feel that one of the areas that has to be addressed at the beginning itself in keeping with the discussions that are taking place in the United Nations is, setting up of some kind of a national disaster management council. We have not only floods and cyclones, we have earthquakes, we have soil erosion and soil

slippage. It should include all these issues. There are so many other issues. What kind of houses are we going to have in earthquake prone areas or cyclone prone areas? A lot of things will have to be done. Then comes the question of management of warning system. What kind of warning has to be there? We found that the magnitude of 24 hour continuous rainfall on the 23rd September was more than the 72 hour continuous rainfall that led to the 1978 floods in West Bengal. Somehow, the forecasting system that we had was not dependable. At that time, this kind of forecasting was not there. These are vagaries of nature. I fully agree that we cannot avoid cyclones and we cannot avoid floods. But the point is, we have to have the satisfaction that as a nation whether we have done sufficient to address the situation and to address the aftermath of these events. That is the whole issue. I don't want to go into the kind of judgement as to which State has been affected more. This is the situation in West Bengal for the last one-and-a-half months. During the course of the election campaign, floods occurred in West Bengal. The Prime Minister was there as a part of the election campaign. I am pained to say that when it was stated that such a flood havoc had taken place in West Bengal the Prime Minister saw it and he said, "West Bengal has not repaid". They also said that 70 per cent of the money that the State gets is in the form of a loan on which the State has to pay 12 per cent interest. He was saying that the last year's repayment had not been made. It is atrocious because the money had reached on 31st March, and in October, he is saying that repayment has not been made. I just want to point out the kind of havoc that has been there; such was the severity of floods that 79 people have been killed; it has affected 1.28 crore people and 2,... blocks in 14 districts — almost the entire State was affected. Seven thousand six hundred and eighty five relief camps had to be set up. The report says: "3,45,686 houses were totally destroyed; 2,13,841 houses have been partially damaged." Together with this, you consider the damage caused to the roads, the telecommunication network, the power network and to the crops. There has been an extensive damage to the crops. Now, 13,640 million tonnes of rice, 6,430 tonnes of wheat, 3,74,000 pieces of tarpaulin and 1,39,600 pieces of clothing have been distributed as relief. You cannot imagine the kind of damage that has been there, and the assessment is only Rs. 2,086.72 crores — I agree with you that these are Government figures. Truly, a great tragedy has happened. You talk of a national consensus; we also take this approach that there has to be a national consensus. But you see, these issues have to be depoliticised. The Prime Minister cannot just visit the State only during election time and make that kind of atrocious statement. You vitiate the atmosphere. If you want to de-politicise the issue, it has to be followed up, whether elections or no elections. Just because there is the CPM or the Left Front Government should you take a certain kind of position? That itself is the biggest obstacle, and I think, this kind of things...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: We take your point. But I wish to point out one thing. It is not fair on your part to bring in the name of the Prime Minister here. But when you said that, certainly, I will remind you that the Chief Minister of West Bengal, Shri Jyoti Basu, had gone on record saying that he would not greet Vajpayeeji if he became the Prime Minister...

SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: He has already written a letter....(*Interruptions*) Don't betray your real approach towards evolving a national consensus. I was only referring to this because it is contrary to the approach with which you are speaking in the House. We welcome your approach. But what we are saying is that since you are in the Government, it is primarily your responsibility to create the right kind of atmosphere, to forge the kind of national consensus, that we need to really address the problem of this dimension...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: We agree with this. But both of us are there in the Government...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: There has been a havoc even in Orissa, Andhra Pradesh and in Kerala, though it is on the West Coast. In Bihar, there had been floods. Sir, I was referring to the North-East. Everywhere, this kind of things are taking place. And, we have the mechanism right now, namely, the National Calamity Relief Fund; but it is absolutely inadequate. Mr. Venkaiah Naidu rightly pointed out that they have started this year with a negative balance in the corpus fund. The same is the case with West Bengal. Now we are demanding Rs. 720 crores and we have only Rs. 59 crores in the corpus fund. What do we do when our State has already spent more than Rs. 50 crores? It is not adequate. We have been discussing these things; and the Finance Commission is supposed to take it up. What kind of work the Eleventh Finance Commission will do is a very serious issue. Our difficulty is that, sometimes, the economic policies of a very short-term nature really cloud our vision. Some investment now in terms of preventive measures will, perhaps, save us a lot of money. If we merely go by the market principles, that there is some investment at the cost of batering the long-term interests of the nation, it is disastrous. That can pay you some dividents, maybe, at this point of time, but we have some responsibilities towards our future generations also. That is why I was referring to the question of the Insurance Regulatory Authority Bill. It is self-contradictory. *(Interruptions)* I understand your predicament. I am not criticising you. These are real...

हिंदी में इसका सबसे अच्छा, बेहतर शब्द 'धर्मसंकट' है ...(व्यवधान) नहीं मैं हिंदी भाषा के बारे में बोल रहा हूं हमारे धर्म के बारे में नहीं बोल रहा हूं। लेकिन यह धर्मसंकट है कि आप एक तरफ यह मांग कर रहे हैं कि बाढ़ हो, साइक्लोन हो इससे पीड़ित जो लोग हैं उनके लिए इंश्योरेंस का इंतजाम

करना चाहिए और दूसरी तरफ आपको 26 परसेंट से प्रायवेट इंश्योरेंस कंपनीज, फारेन इंश्योरेंस कंपनीज लानी पड़ेगी। उससे हमारी पब्लिक इंश्योरेंस कंपनीज के जरिए जो फंड आ सकता है इस किस्म के जो प्रोजेक्ट्स हैं, उनको फंड करने के लिए वह तबाह हो जाएगा।

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: You are talking about the GIC and the LIC. The Minister made it very clear yesterday that they will discharge the social obligations; there was no question of going back on that. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: I know. But the majority of people, who are now insuring with the LIC and the GIC, will not remain with them. You should understand that also, because it will not be a level-playing field. You know the Americans. In the Citi Bank, you can have an account only if you have a deposit of one lakh rupees. Those who want personal banking, those who were all this time with the SBI, UCO and some other banks, are shifting to the Citi Bank because they are getting better services. So, you cannot give up ideas like development and the social aspect of funding your programmes, in a developing country like ours and in a poor country like ours. So, that contradiction comes into the open when you are really forced to face a practical difficulty on the question of natural calamities and you are devising your economic policy which suits or gladdens the hearts of the international community which has become a euphemism for US multinationals.

So, Mr. Chairman, Sir, I do not want to take much time of the House. These are some policy aspects that will have to be taken into consideration. It is a very good suggestion that he has given. The NDC has to be convened. But the NDC cannot restrict itself to the mere issues of natural calamities like floods or cyclones. A comprehensive approach has to be drawn up and it will have its bearing on our economic policies, on other aspects of our social policy because, in a country like this, resources are very vital. Certain preventive measures will have to be taken; the whole world is discussing things like that. I referred to the UN observing the Natural Disaster Decade and how to better manage natural disasters.

Sir, this is the Council of States and this is the forum where our people have sent us. So, I would like to reiterate the demand that the State Government has made and I think very legitimate demands have been made by the State Government. Sir, the situation is really horrible. The situation is very horrible, and it is continuing for one-and-a-half months. Today, it has been reported that a very big cyclone has hit the Contai sub-division of Midnapore district which is adjoining Balasore. So, it is a terrible situation. For almost a month, the north-south corridor, the north Bengal and south Bengal corridor was delinked. The national highways were breached; the railway lines have been breached. Trains are not going on the South-Eastern Railway route. Sir, you will be knowing it well. It is a terrible kind of

situation. So, in this kind of a situation, I think the seriousness of the problem in Bengal has to be understood, in its entirety. I think our State Government—I am not going into the question of degree—with some degree of efficiency, has also presented its case before the Central Government. Bengal really needs all your help; cutting across political opinion in this House, our case should be supported. At the same time, the demands and problems that have been posed by the Governments of Orissa, Andhra and the North-Eastern States, and wherever the natural calamities have struck, should be considered. Our heart goes to all of them, to all those people who have been affected. I would like that the tone and tenor with which we have had this discussion, should be followed up really by a concrete response from Government. Thank you, Sir.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SANATAN BISI): Thank you, Mr. Basu. We will continue the discussion at 2 o' clock. The House is adjourned for lunch till 2.00 p.m.

The House then adjourned for lunch at two minutes past one of the clock.

The House reassembled, after Lunch, at five minutes past two of the clock—[**The Vice Chairman, (Miss Saroj Khaparde)** *in the Chair.*

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE): We shall continue with the Short Duration Discussion.

DR. M.N. Das.

DR. M.N. DAS (Orissa): Respected Madam Chairperson, at this very moment of today's Zero Hour when we are taking up for discussion the cyclonic havoc caused on Andhra and Orissa Coasts on 17th October, at this very moment a more severe storm in hitting coastal Orissa and moving towards West Bengal. Madam, this is the latest message that we received at 1.30 P.M. This the latest report which we received at 1.30 P.M. from Orissa Coast which says, "cyclone is moving at a speed of 200 kilometres per hour and has reached the Paradip Port about half-an-hour before. The tidal waves caused by the cyclone will reach the port expecting heavy damage to the port itself. It is moving north-west towards West Bengal. All the six coastal district, 200 kilometres long, will be affected by that. Thousands of houses have already been destroyed." This is the report received just half-an-hour before and it says that the storm is moving faster .... *(Interruption)* .... 200 kilometres per hour is the velocity of the cyclonic storm .... *(Interruptions)* .... It is just at the beginning stage. Its impact will be felt by the evening what the damage is, what the loss of life and property and everything else is. So at this time when my heart and mind have already gone over there because I come from an area which is only three kilometres away from the sea. I saw with my own eyes the great cyclone of 1942 when more than ten

thousand people were swept away by a tidal wave. It was such a terrible cyclone that it damaged the entire standing crops or Orissa and the United Bengal of those days. It became one of the causes of the great Bengal Famine of 1943-44 in which million of people died. That was the peak time of the War. The British paid no attention; they had no mind, and no time to look to the welfare of the people, to save the people from the famine. That was also the time when the British were suppressing the Quit India Movement in India. So people died like flies. From far off Gujarat a Marwari relief society came and offered doles to the people struck by the famine. I saw with my own eyes how people died in front of the volunteers serving and rescuing them. That was the tragedy at that time. Madam, on 20th October in her opening address to the current Session of Rajya Sabha, hon. Dr. Najma Heptulla referred to the cyclonic havoc of 17th October. Two weeks have not passed; there is a second attack and a more severe attack, extending over larger belt of land. I do not know how anybody can face this kind of a national calamity. I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Members of the Hosue what when we talk of a cyclone, we have also to measure that cyclone by its intensity and by its impact.

Cyclone, as we all know, is a normal feature of phenomenon. The entire eastern coast of India, starting from Kanyakumari to Bangladesh, is facing this problem. It has almost become an annual feature. What my friend, Mr. Venkaiah Naidu, referred to is, in one decade there are 17 cyclones in Andhra Pradesh. Yes, more or less, it has become an annual feature. But, there are cyclones of different types and kinds. Madam, cyclone in its mild form is a stormy wind coupled with a heavy downpour affecting the coastal belt. But the same normal cyclone may turn abnormal when it takes the form of a tempest. The tempest is a violent attack of the windstorm. But, fortunately, tempest is limited to a smaller area. But the bigger sister of the tempest is called a hurricane. Hurricane strikes at a velocity of 120 kms or more per hour. It covers a much wider area than the tempest. But the worst form of cyclone is tornado. Tornado is the most violent tropical form of a whirlwind. It must pass over its passage to low down its pressure. But, on its way, it causes an extensive damage to the entire area through which it passes, followed by a trail of thick clouds raining heavily.

On 17th October, 1999, it was a tornado that hit the districts of Ganjam in Orissa and a part of Andhra coast. What was the outcome of that hit? Madam, three populus towns—Berhampur, Chhatrapur and Gopalpur—were threatened. Thousands of heavy electric polls, thousands of houses covering 500 villages, not to speak of trees, were totally uprooted and destroyed. Only in Ganjam, according to the latest reports, 116 people have died. But I am not certain about this figure, because thousands of fishermen community, who live on the Gopalpur sea beach, might have been swept away into the

Bay of Bengal. Their number we can never know. But whatever it is, the cyclone has caused a heavy damage to the standing crops of all varieties and that tornado, possibly, directed its younger sister, hurricane, to cover the Andhra belt and also some of the adjoining districts of Khurd, Puri, Keonjher, Dhenkanal, etc., in Orissa. This is the second attack in less than two weeks. There is no question of politics here. There is no question of political consideration. A human tragedy, coming out of a natural calamity must be treated as a national calamity.

I must express, on behalf of the people of Orissa, my gratitude to the hon. Prime Minister, that he went there, saw the affected areas and agreed to release Rs. 250 crores. I must also express my gratitude, on behalf of the people of Orissa, to the Congress President, Smt. Sonia Gandhi, who paid a visit to the ravaged areas for a personal understanding of the problems of the distressed people.

So, it is a question of sympathy. We should think about it, cutting across party lines. It is not a matter for the Opposition or the Government. It is a human tragedy. Our approach should be from a human angle. That is the need of the hour. Madam, my friends, Mr. Basu, who is not here, and Mr. Naidu, on the other side, discussed about remedial measures to face this natural calamity, which is a annual occurrence, with a view to tackling it in a proper way. Usual cyclones can be tackled. But if it is a hurricane or a tornado, we have a think in a broader perspective, with a wider vision. Have we taken into consideration the ecological imbalance? We are facing the problem of environment degradation in the country. Have we studied as to why the heat of the land surface is increasing year after year? have we given a though as to why the sea water level is increasing year after year? It has already been forecasted that a time may come when Bangladesh and the coastal belt of West Bengal will be submerged into the sea. Six famous cities which include Tokyo, London, Copenhagen, etc. may also face the same situation. Why is it so? It is because the ice at the North Pole and the South Pole has started melting because of the increasing heat of the earth. This problem is being faced by the entire humanity.This is a challenge before the scientific community of the world. They have to see as to how this situation can be faced. In our country, we have to look into the causes of these cyclones. The cyclones are caused due to low barometric pressure. But why does this low barometric pressure take place? Are we concerned about at what rapid speed we are deforesting the whole of India? Man thinks that resources of nature are his property to enjoy. It is human nature to exploit every element of nature. But man forgets that nature will not remain silent, it will take its revenge upon him. We, in India, are going to face natural calamities on more gigantic scale. Unless the national Government of the time or in the future looks into the problem of ecological crisis, the problem

of natural imbalance faced by the entire Indian sub-continent is not going to be solved. I would like to request the Government to call upon the environmentalists, ecologists, and scientists to put their collective wisdom to find out ways and means as to how this trend of natural calamites could be checked. It is the need of the hour that we rise to the occasion and think of the future.

It will be too late, if we do not wake up at this time. So, I request the present dispensation—cutting across party lines, cutting across regional considerations—that please go in for a national consensus, create awareness as to how to remedy, in a permanent way, this continuous, persistent calamity, that is threatening the Indian economy. Madam, I am not an expert to propose any long-term remedial measures, but echoing the sentiments of Shri Basu, I would say that the issue calls for an in-depth and greater study of the problem, in a wider perspective, rather than going in for some temporary measures, like this insurance, that insurance, supply of this, supply of that, etc. etc. So, Madam Vice-Chairman, it is a challenging time; and I am not able to speak because my mind is somewhere else, visualizing those thusands of families running helter-skelter to save their lives, to be followed by days of starvation. Nobody would come to their rescue, to give them the basic minimum need of food or medicine or even a tarpaulin to spend the day and night under heavy downpour. Madam, I conclude with a request that a national problem must be tackled in a national way, in a scientific way, for which experts must collectively take dicisions as to how to face the future because this will become a continuous feature hereafter, the way in which we have played with the nature. Thank you, Madam.

SHRI SANATAN BISI (Orissa): Thank you, Madam. I very much associate myself with the plight that has been narrated by my friends. I will be very brief. My proposal would be, Madam, so far as the background of the State of Orissa is concerned, it can be termed as a national calamity. So far as the funds for the natural calamity is concerned, the formula that was being followed earlier should be changed, keeping in view the condition of the State of Orissa. Furthermore, I will say that earlier, the Government of Orissa, on two occasions had submitted White Papers in respect of the calamities. As you know, Madam, every year, the State of Orissa is ravaged by natural calamities—in the shape of drought, cyclone and floods. So, the Government of Orissa, every year, is sending some proposals, but those proposals are still lying with the Central Government. Madam, as far as the previous proposals, which were given in the shape of White papers, are concerned, I want to know from the hon'ble Minister whether anything has been given to the State of Orissa. If so, how much has been given against those proposals? I also want to know whether any monitoring of the situation is being done or not. Secondly, Madam, I would say that a White Paper had

been submitted on 21st July, 1994, in which the State Government had demanded Rs. 150 crores for floods. The second thing is with regard to the drought that occurred in 1998-99. Madam, the Government of Orissa had submitted an estimate of Rs. 426.38 crores for this, but, against that, an ad hoc amount of Rs. 50 crores has been given to the State of Orissa. When our honourable Prime Minister visited Orissa, he assured an assistance of Rs. 50 crores. Out of that, only Rs. 34 crores has been given to Orissa. So, my submission would be that, unless and until the Government of Orissa receives the rest of the amount, it cannot provide any relief to the people.

The other background that I would like to give is that, nearly 48.6 per cent of the people of our State liye below the poverty line. Secondly, the per capita income of the State is the lowest of all the States, except, of course, Bihar. Yield of food-grains per acre is nearly half, while the fertilizer consumption is less than half of the national average. The deterioration in the revenue and the fiscal deficit, as a result of this is so pronounced now that the State finances have come under a severe strain. Under these circumstances, I would urge the Central Government to send relief assistance to the State as early as possible. As far as the permanent measures, as suggested by other hon. Members, are concerned, I support that they should be taken at the earliest. Thank you.

श्री रामदेव भंडारी (बिहार): उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदया, अभी जब हम नेशनल कैलेमिटी पर सदन में चर्चा कर रहे हैं, उड़ीसा के हमारे माननीय सदस्य ने कहा कि 250 किलोमीटर प्रति घंटे की स्पीड से एक साइक्लोन उड़ीसा कोस्ट को पार कर रहा है और वेस्ट बंगाल की तरफ बढ़ रहा है। इससे पहले भी 17 अक्टूबर को इसी प्रकार का एक साइक्लोन आंध्र प्रदेश, उड़ीसा, बंगाल और बिहार के कुछ भागों को तहस-नहस करता हुआ गुजर गया। इस वर्ष ही नहीं, हर वर्ष इस देश में किसी न किसी राज्य में, किसी न किसी क्षेत्र में इसी तरह का तूफान, बाढ़, भूकम्प, भूस्खलन जैसी नेशनल कैलेमिटीज़ होती हैं और हम इनकी चर्चा सदन में करते हैं। सरकार से अपील करते हैं कि सहायता पहुंचाई जाए, रिलीफ का इंतज़ाम किया जाए और सरकार भी तत्कालीन रूप से इंतज़ाम करती है मगर इसका स्थायी समाधान जो करना चाहिए, वह हम नहीं कर पाते हैं और फिर अगले साल जाकर इसी तरह की सिचुएशन आती है जिसका हमें मुकाबला करना पड़ता है।

महोदया, मैं बिहार से आता हूं और बिहार में भी उत्तरी बिहार से। उत्तरी बिहार में नेपाल से कई नदियां आती हैं जैसे कोसी, कमला, गण्डक, महानन्दा आदि और हर वर्ष एक बार नहीं, दो बार नहीं, तीन-तीन बार, चार-चार बार भयंकर बाढ़ उत्तरी बिहार में आती है और बरसात का सीजन छोड़ दीजिए, कभी-कभी तो दीपावली के अवसर पर भी बाढ़ आती है। कई ऐसी घटनाएं हैं जिनका स्थायी समाधान नहीं हो सकता है मगर बिहार में, उत्तरी बिहार में जो बाढ़ की समस्या है उसका स्थायी समाधान हो सकता है। बिहार सरकार ने उन नदियों पर बांध बांधकर समाधान किया मगर वह भी स्थायी समाधान नहीं है क्योंकि वे नदियां नेपाल से आती हैं। इसलिए भारत सरकार इसमें पहल करेगी और उसी हालत में नेपाल से एक समझौता होगा और उस समझौते के तहत नेपाल में डैम बनाया जाएगा। हमारे जल

संसाधन मंत्री जब आदरणीय जनेश्वर मिश्र जी थे तो उन्होंने प्रयास भी किया था मगर जिस तरह का प्रयास होना चाहिए उस तरह का प्रयास केन्द्रीय सरकार के स्तर पर नहीं हो रहा है और नेपाल से समझौता न होने की वजह से उत्तरी बिहार में बाढ़ की वजह से हर साल करोड़ों की संख्या में मवेशियों और जान-माल का नुकसान होता है। उस नुकसान से वह नहीं बच पाता।

महोदया, इस वर्ष भी बिहार में भयंकर बाढ़ आई है और खासकर उत्तरी बिहार में। और इस वर्ष भी बिहार सरकार को उसका मुकाबला करने के लिए रीहैबिलिटेशन के काम में, जो फसल बरबाद हो गई है उसे फिर से लगाने के लिए अपने राजकोष से कोष देना पड़ा है, पिछली बार भी देना पड़ा था। ....मगर केन्द्रीय सरकार के स्तर पर बिहार सरकार की कोई मदद नहीं की जाती है और न ही कोई स्थाई समाधान ढूंढने का प्रयास किया जाता है। महोदया, मैं आपके माध्यम से केन्द्रीय सरकार से यह कहना चाहूंगा कि अभी भी समय है कि एक केन्द्रीय टीम पटना जाए और बिहार सरकार से विचार-विमर्श करके वहां पर जो बाढ़ से नुकसान हुआ है उसका अस्थाई और स्थाई हल निकाले। अस्थाई का मतलब है, अभी जो नुकसान हुआ है उसमें सरकार की ओर से सहायता दी जाए। स्थाई का मतलब है, कि उन नदियों में फिर से बाढ़ न आये इसके लिए नेपाल सरकार से बात की जाए। नेचुरल कैलामिटीज के लिए केन्द्रीय सरकार के पास एक कोष है जिसमें हर स्टेट के लिए निर्धारित कोटा है और बिहार सरकार को उसके तहत ही कोटा मिलता है। लेकिन जो बिहार सरकार का कोटा अस्थाई तौर पर है वह मिलता है लेकिन स्थाई तौर पर जो बाढ़ आती है उसके लिए अलग से बिहार सरकार के लिए किसी तरह का कोई प्रबन्ध नहीं है। ऐसी स्थिति में वहां जो अस्थाई रूप से इस तरह की घटनाएं होती हैं उनके लिए विशेष प्रबन्ध किया जाए और केन्द्रीय सरकार द्वारा विशेष कोष की व्यवस्था की जाए। दूसरे बाढ़ को नियंत्रण में लाने के लिए एक राष्ट्रीय बाढ़ नियंत्रण समिति बनाई जाए जिसमें एक्सपर्ट्स विचार करके एक योजना तैयार करें ताकि उन योजनाओं के द्वारा हम इस पर कन्ट्रोल कर सकें।

SHRI RANGANATH MISRA (Orissa): Madam Vice-Chairperson, thank you for giving me this opportunity to associate myself with what we have been discussing now. Nature has unleashed its wrath; and Orissa has suffered, within a fortnight, twice. The cyclone that has visited Orissa this time is not a normal one. Now, for about 60 years, I have been following the cyclones in Orissa. I have found that each year, Orissa has at least two or three cyclones. The cyclone season begins around June and continues up to mid-October. If we do not have a virulent cyclone, the cultivator takes it that the crop would be good. But again, in the last week of October this year, we were caught. The other one was also in the third week. But the small rice crop which is normally cultivated in these areas, the coastal areas, would be ready in November, for harvesting. Now that the cyclone has hit that area, the entire paddy crop which has been standing on the field would be rendered useless. Human suffering has a limit of tolerance. But this cyclon is probably giving us a suffering which would be difficult to bear.

Some 20 years back, I met an engineer from Austria, when I was a Judge in the Orissa High Court. He called on me. I was officiating as the Chief Justice. He spent sometime with me in the court. He saw the things. The

court building attracted him. He lived in Puri for about three weeks. He told us that there was an ocean current which flows below the Andaman and comes up to the coastal area of the main land; and, actually, it goes down and very often it is up. We have a channel of cyclone. If it is on the upper side of Andamans and goes up to Vizag or the upper side of Vizag, it would normally cross Balasore and go up to Midnapore. Contai is a place in Midnapore District. It is Mr. Indrajit Gupta's area or constituency. It is normally affected by the cyclone which originates at Aandamas. If it is below Andamans, far south in the winter season of ours, it hits the south. Otherwise, Andhra and other areas would also be affected when a cyclone originates in mid-sea or mid-way. In each year, now, a minimum of 2-3 cyclones have been coming. It is a very usual feature for Orissa. You have been told by the previous speakers as to how poor Orissa is. People are not normally prepared to get evacuated. I have also gone to the areas before cyclone and after cyclone. I have found out the reason why they do not leave their houses. The poor men would be having a cow or a pair of bullocks or even some goats. To the poor men, they are members of the family. In the same way as men, women and children would go away together, they would like their animals to be taken when they are going. The governmental machinery would not permit the cattle to be taken. Therefore, it is very difficult for them to abandon their property, leave them behind, and go. They are prepared to die.

Years back, we had proposed and the Government of India had accepted that forest would be grown on the seaside from south, that is Chennai area, up to Bengal so that if it is deep-rooted and wide growth, that would work as an obstruction to cyclone and the fury of the cyclone would be reduced by the time it reaches the land. There would be a blockade. This was all discussed but nothing happened. I would suggest that the Government of India takes it up seriously. It is an approved plan. The Government of India had found that this would be a remedial measure which could be worked out. We are now running short of forest cover. As against the requirement of 33 per cent, we have 19 per cent. We are short by 14 per cent. Schemes for afforestation are being taken up. I think one good scheme can be to cover this area, the seaside, at a reasonable distance from the sea and raise a real forest of deep roots so that the trees would not be easily uprooted. Also, as a policy, probably, the Government can ban living houses or constructions to be raised between the forest and the sea so that nobody would be having habitation on the affected side, the area that would be subject to cyclone.

Orissa has a typical problem. It is subject to annual cyclones; it is subject to annual floods; it has also a larger area subject to annual drought. We have all the counts on which nature can make man suffer. Therefore, the repetitive

exercise which the people of Orissa have been suffering from requires a real, substantial, permanent or perennial attention.

We were all thinking of a National Calamity Fund. That fund should not be the upper limit of support. Depending upon the exigencies of the situation, the nature of the sufference, I think the Government of India should have also some system to supplement that. Instead of only having a National Calamity Fund, I think there should be a consensus. The States that are being regularly affected should be allowed to have national support and a national calamity team having expertise and people capable of going from one point to another at the shortest notice to start operational help. If that is done and some expertise is put into it, it would be useful. Technology has developed. Science has already been indicating that a lot of attention can be given to reduce the fury of nature. A permanent research team may be set up to really find out why these deviations are taking place. Earlier, cyclones were up to October; Now, why are they spreading up to November? Why has the normal annual cycone which was bringing in rain and not so much of damage has now changed colour? I found out on telephone that there is not much rain this time. It is the wind. The speed of the gale is damaging. Very early morning, rain has stopped but the wind has been blowing and gradually increasing its velocity. These things should be looked into, probed into, and a solution should be found.

So far as the immediate problem is concerned, we really do not know how much of damage will be caused in that area by tomorrow. The Paradeep Port probably has been very badly mauled. It will require immediate attention. The people who have suffered losses of thier residential houses, their crops and animals, must also be compensated. This compensation would not really be adequate on account of the fact that we are not going to pay them the price. But I suggest that we can think of some sort of insurance for the crops, residential houses and animals. I saw some time back in the Raj Bhawan at Hyderabad a small construction costing Rs.8,000/-. it was lying there for quite some time. I have been seeing it for four, five years. When I inquired why it is lying there, they said, it had been given by the people form Holland. An engineer had come and done it. It is said that this is foolproof accommodation in the cyclone-prone area. If it is so and if it is really costing Rs. 8,000/—, it is worthwhile to culture this thing and spread it out in that area which is normally prone to cyclone so that a solid accommodation would be available to the people. In fact, the engineer, on one occasion, the man who had done it was telling that this can be made to stand the cyclone of the worst type. If that be so, some such thing may be accepted and we may develop that.

I do not intend to make a speech. This is not an occasion for speech-making. But I would request that the Central Government rises to the occasion and really answers the human sufferings in an effective way by extending its help and not calculate its finances or the budget. Human sufferings cannot be answered in terms of budget. Therefore, the Government of India must come forward as the real protector of the people of India and open its access for the purpose. I will conclude with a small story. Hastinapur had a problem of drought during the Mahabharata time. Then they thought that they must have some grains. Ultimately, when they discussed and debated this matter, they found that the only person who can help them was Kuber. Then somebody had to go to Kuber. So, Bheema was prepared for this job and he reached there. When he reached there, he found that a dark-looking dwarf man was picking up small particles of grains. He went up to him and said: "Where do I get Kuber?" He said: "Why?" Bheema said that he had been sent by Hastinapur as a messenger for this purpose. Bheema started thinking, "This man to whom I have come to approach for thousands of bags of grains has been picking grains that have been mixed up with the soil. What type of benefit would he do"? When he stated the purpose of his visit, immediately the response came saying: "The granary will be opened. Carry as much as you like." Bheema asked him, "if you are doing this and you are prepared to support in this way, what were you doing? Why are you wasting the time?" He said: "I am a preserver. My job is to preserve and not to waste. Therefore, even if one grain is lost, it is a loss to the support that I am intended to give. Therefore, I was collecting those grains so that I may be generous when a demand comes." I only suggest the Government of India behave as Kuber, open its granary for the people to be fed. Thank you.

श्री जनेश्वर मिश्र (उत्तर प्रदेश): मैडम, थैंक यू वेरी मच। (व्यवधान) मैं अंग्रेजी नहीं बोलूंगा। यह तो गलती से निकल गया आप लोगों की सोबत की वजह से।

पेट्रोलियम और प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्री (श्री राम नायक): लेकिन थैंक यू तो हिन्दी है।

श्री जनेश्वर मिश्र: आज सवेरे से हम लोग अखबार में पढ़ रहे थे कि उड़ीसा में पहले से भी बड़ा समुद्री चक्रवात आएगा और इस समय तक आ चुका है। हम नहीं जानते कि समुद्री चक्रवात को रोकने के लिए अभी दुनिया के किसी भी विज्ञान ने कोई तरीका इज़ाद किया है। अभी हम जज साहब को सुन रहे थे। उन्होंने कहा कि विशेषज्ञ, वैज्ञानिक और जिन लोगों ने इस मामले में महारथ हासिल किया, उन लोगों का बड़े पैमाने पर टीम अध्ययन करने के लिए जानी चाहिये। यह थोड़ा सा मुश्किल काम भी है। मुश्किल काम इसलिए है कि अभी तक इसे ढूंढा नहीं गया। यह सही है कि मनुष्य कुदरत के साथ खेलता है रोज़। यह हम लोगों की सदन में कुर्सियां बनी हैं लकड़ी की, यह कुदरत के साथ खिलवाड़ के कारण है। कहीं न कहीं पेड़ कटा होगा उसके बाद यह मेज और कुर्सी बनी होगी। मनुष्य रोज़ ही खेलता है और कभी कभी कुदरत भी आदमी के साथ खेल दिया करती है। हम लोगों को लड़कपन में बताया

माना था कि भगवान के सामने गरीब और अमीर कुछ भी नहीं है, सब बराबर होते हैं। भगवान मायने कुदरत, कोई खास किस्म की ताकत नहीं प्रकृति लेकिन हम देखते हैं कि प्रकृति भी उन्हीं लोगों को गरीब बनाती है जो पहले से गरीब हैं। हिन्दुस्तान का सब से गरीब उड़ीसा का इलाका है। वहां के लोग सामान्य दिनों में जितना तबाह रहते हैं, असामान्य दिनों में उनकी का आकलन करना बहुत मुश्किल काम है और यह असामान्य दिन केवल उड़ीसा के लिए नहीं, बंगाल के लिए नहीं, आन्ध्र के लिए नहीं, पूरे देश के लिए है। अभी तक तुफान के पूर्वानुमान का जो तरीका है वह भी हम ठीक से इज़ाद नहीं कर पाए हैं। मुश्किल से एक दिन पहले आसार होने लगता है हमारे वैज्ञानिकों को कि समुद्री तुफान आने वाला है। मछुआरे जो समुद्र के किनारे बसते हैं उनको थोड़ा पहले आभास हो जाता है। एक बार मैं तमिलनाडु के इलाके में घूम रहा था तो वहां किनारे के एक मछुआरे ने कह दिया जल्दी से आप चेन्नई चले जाएं बहुत ज़बरदस्त तुफान दो तीन दिन के भीतर आ जाएगा। वह कैसे जाना, मैं नहीं जानता। वह वैज्ञानिक नहीं होते लेकिन उनका तजरुबा बोलता है। हमारे वैज्ञानिक लेबोरेटरी में ढूंढा करते हैं। उनके अपने फार्मूले होते हैं जिनके हिसाब से काम करते हैं। एक दिन पहले अन्दाज़ा नहीं, कल पता लगा कि उड़ीसा में बहुत बड़ा चक्रवात आएगा और आज आ गया। 250 किलोमीटर की रफ्तार से, 300 किलोमीटर की रफ्तार से चक्रवात चलता आया है। अगर अनुमान लगाने के बाद पूर्वानुमान के बाद हम उस इलाके में बस ले जा कर लोगों को ढोना शुरु करें, छोड़ दीजिये जानवरों वगैरह को तो किस रफ्तार से हमारे बस चलेगी। तब तक तो हम चपेट में फंस जाएंगे। बाढ़ के बारे में पूर्वानुमान ठीक है, तीन, चार, पांच दिन पहले आ जाता है लेकिन समुद्री चक्रवात के बारे में पूर्वानुमान अभी बहुत कमजोर है। पहला मुद्दा होगा कि हमारे वैज्ञानिक या दुनिया भर के वैज्ञानिक या जितने हुनरमंद लोग हैं वे सब के सब लोग इस विषय पर कोई तरीका निकालें कि हफ्ता, 15 दिन, 10 दिन, 4 दिन या 5 दिन पहले वे अंदाज, लगा लें कि चक्रवात आने वाला है, क्योंकि यह कुदरत का खेल है और कुदरत के खेल का अंदाज ही लगाया जा सकता है। दिल्ली की सबसे बड़ी कुर्सी पर बैठकर या सबसे बड़े धनी देश की सबसे बड़ी कुर्सी पर बैठकर अभी किसी में कुदरत को रोकने की ताकत नहीं आयी है। जो कोई भी जब कभी भी बैठे।

बहुत पहले जब इस तरह की आफत आती थी तो आदमी समुद्र की पूजा करता था, गंगा मैया की पूजा करता था और तसल्ली कर लेता था—उनके अभिशाप को भी अपना वरदान मानकर कि कर ही क्या सकता है। लेकिन धीरे-धीरे आदमी सभ्यता के विकास के साथ अपनी जिंदगी के बारे में ज्यादा समझदार बन गया है। वह मानकर चलता है कि जिस किसी देश की जो कोई भी सरकार होती है उसकी जिम्मेवारी बनती है कि वह उसकी जिंदगी की हिफाजत करे। जान-माल की सुरक्षा का इंतजाम सरकार का पहला फर्ज माना जाता है। पहले तो वह गंगा मैया को दोष देता था। लेकिन अब उससे थोड़ा हट रहा है। थोड़ा सा उसका मिजाज हटा है। लेकिन अभी बहुत नहीं। अभी उसे गुस्सा नहीं आ रहा है। गुस्सा आता तो आज वह भुवनेश्वर, में बलवा कर देता। गुस्सा आता तो आज तक वह दिल्ली पर चढ़ गया होता कि हमारे जान-माल की हिफाजत क्यों नहीं हुई। अभी वह जानता है कि ये सरकारें कर ही क्या सकती हैं। अगर तूफान आ गया, अगर बाढ़ आ गयी तो हमको बचा ही कैसे सकती हैं। इसलिए वह गुस्सा अभी बढ़ नहीं रहा है। लेकिन जान-माल की हिफाजत के बारे में पहले तो गंगा मैया और प्रकृति की पूजा करके वह अपने में सब्र कर लिया करता था, अब वह धीरे-धीरे अपने जान-माल की हिफाजत के बारे में सचेत होता जा रहा है। मानता है कि जो हमने संस्था गठित की है उसकी जिम्मेवारी बनती है

कि हमारी हिफाजत करे। हम उस संस्था को पैसा देते हैं, टैक्स देते हैं, खजाना भरते हैं और जो कोई भी खजाना हुआ करता है उसमें कोई आसमान से रुपया नहीं टपकता है बल्कि लोगों के पसीने से निकलकर आता है। तो वह सोचता है कि रुपया इसलिए देते हैं कि कोई बड़ी आफत आएगी तो इस रुपए से हमारी हिफाजत होगी। थोड़ा सा अपनी जिंदगी के बारे में वह सचेत हुआ है आज।

आजादी मिलने के बाद कुछ दिनों तक जो इस कुर्सी पर बैठा करते थे वे बोलते थे कि हम कर ही क्या सकते हैं। आसमान में पानी नहीं है तो बांस लगाकर पानी निकाल देंगे क्या! अगर गंगा मैया ने बाढ़ ला दी तो हम शंकर भगवान तो हैं नहीं कि उसे हम अपनी जटा में रोक लेंगे। यह भाषण हम अपने लड़कपन में सुनते थे। लेकिन आज आदमी समझ गया है कि आसमान में पानी नहीं है तो पानी जमीन के नीचे तो है। आसमान का पानी तो अभी बांस लगाकर निकालने की ताकत विज्ञान ने नहीं दी है लेकिन जमीन के नीचे का पानी निकालने की ताकत विज्ञान ने हमें दे दी है तो वहां से निकालकर हमारा खेत बचाया जा सकता है। शंकर की जटा की ताकत तो हम में नहीं लेकिन बांध बनाकर तटबंध बनाकर नदियों को रोका जा सकता है और बड़ी बड़ी नदियों को दुनिया में कैद किया गया है। ऐसा नहीं है। अब आदमी यह सोचने लग गया है। लेकिन पहले फुसलाया जा सकता था। यह और बात होती थी मैडम कि पहले जिन लोगों की सरकार यहां बनती थी उन्हीं की सरकार सूबों में भी रहती थी। नतीजा होता था कि अगर कुछ पैसा वगैरह बंट गया. किसी राहत कार्य के लिए तो किसी सरकार का मुख्य मंत्री बोलता नहीं था। और दिल्ली का मंत्री भी वहां के आफत वाले इलाके की सरकार के बारे में नहीं बोलता था। लोग राजनीति खेलने लगे और याद रखिएगा कुदरती आफत के दौर में अगर सियासत उसकी आग की चपेट में अपनी रोटी सेकने की कोशिश करेगी तो इंसानियत के लिए वह बड़े खतरनाक दौर से यह कौम गुजरेगी। हमने एक बार दिल्ली सरकार के एक मिनिस्टर का बयान पढ़ा। उड़ीसा की राज्य सरकार का वह बयान मेरे हाथ में है। उड़ीसा की सरकार ने राहत का काम ठीक से नहीं किया। उड़ीसा की सरकार दूसरी पार्टी की और केन्द्र की सरकार दूसरी पार्टी की। हमको अच्छी तरह से याद है, मैडम, 20-25 साल पहले हमारी कांस्टीटूएंसी में बाढ़ आ गई तो हम नाव से उस इलाके का दौरा कर रहे थे। नाव चलाने वाला नाव घुमा-घुमा कर ले जाता था। हमने पूछा क्यों? उसने बताया कि बाबू, यह जो पेड़ है इसके नीचे से हम नाव नहीं ले जायेंगे क्योंकि इसमें सांप लटके रहते हैं। हमने किनारे से देखा तो पेड़ पर सांप भी था, चूहा भी था, बिल्ली भी चढ़ी हुई थी। कोई किसी को बोल नहीं रहा था। आपात् धर्म में चूहा, बिल्ली सांप एक ही पेड़ पर चुपचाप सहमे बैठे रहते हैं। यह प्रकृति का नियम है। लेकिन मनुष्य आफत के समय में भी अगर आग लगी है तो अपनी रोटी सेकने की कोशिश करता है। कई राज्य सरकारों के मुखिया लोगों का बयान मैंने कई बार पढ़ा कि केन्द्र सरकार हमको समय पर मदद नहीं करती, हमको रुपया नहीं देती, इसलिए हम राहत कार्य कर नहीं पा रहे हैं। अब अगर केन्द्र सरकार के मंत्रियों की तरफ से यह संदेश जाए कि राज्य सरकारें ठीक से राहत कार्य नहीं कर रही हैं तो यह बड़ा गलत संदेश जाएगा। राज्य सरकार कमजोर संस्था है। चाहे किसी पार्टी की राज्य सरकार हो और कहीं भी बनी हो, उसका हमेशा दिवाला निकला रहता है। उधार लेकर राज्य सरकार अपने कर्मचारियों को तनख्वाह दिया करती है, जिसको ओवर ड्राफ्ट कहते हैं। एक बार भी अगर आफत आ जाएगी तो उसका मुकाबला करने की ताकत राज्य सरकार में नहीं रहती है। केन्द्र सरकार बड़ी ताकत है तो सब उसके आगे हाथ पसारते हैं। जितनी सहायता देनी हो वह देनी चाहिए और दिल खोल कर देनी चाहिए और बन पड़े तो फंड बढ़ा करके देना चाहिए। केवल प्राइम मिनिस्टर रिलीफ फंड या राष्ट्रीय आपात योजना के फंड से

नहीं, जरूरत पड़े तो उन इलाकों के लोगों से जहां कि इस तरह की आफत नहीं आई हो और वे लोग आराम की जिन्दगी जी रहे हों तो उनके सामने केन्द्र सरकार को हाथ पसार कर पैसा मांगना चाहिए कि दे दो और यह जैसे पलटन वालों को रिलीफ फंड दे करके उनके परिवार वालों को आजकल जो फोटो छपाई जाती है, उस तरह से नहीं, जरूरत पड़े तो इंसान की जिन्दगी बचाने के लिए या उसका मकान ठीक से बसाने के लिए, वहां जो दौलतमंद लोग हैं उनसे सख्ती से भी पैसा ले करके यह काम केन्द्र सरकार को करना चाहिए, अगर माननीय जज साहब की अदालत उस सख्ती में रुकावट न डाले तो। मैं इस राय का हूं।....(व्यवधान) लेकिन मदद करनी चाहिए। अब अगर उस मदद में भी भेदभाव होने लगे तो यह ठीक नहीं है। हमारी पार्टी की सरकार अगर सूबे में चल रही है तो दो सौ करोड़ दे दें और अगर विरोधी पार्टी की सरकार चल रही है तथा ज्यादा जरूरत भी है तो एक सौ करोड़ ही दें तो यह सौतेलापन आफत के दिनों में आफत से भी ज्यादा कलह करता है। पिछली बार जब बाढ़ आई थी तो यही हुआ था। एक सूबे में दो सौ करोड़ का एलान हो गया, दूसरे सूबे में एक सौ करोड़ का एलान हो गया, बंगाल के लिए भी सौ या सवा सौ करोड़ का एलान हुआ, जबकि हम जानते हैं कि वे सूबे ज्यादा सफर कर रहे थे, ज्यादा तकलीफ में थे। हम सरकार चलाने वाले लोगों को, राजनीति करने वाले लोगों को फिर सौतेला व्यवहार नहीं करना पड़ेगा। जहां जितनी जरूरत है उसके हिसाब से अनुपात लगा करके बांटना चाहिए। पिछले दिनों मैं गोरखपुर चला गया। हमारे कार्यकर्ता पीटे गए, कलैक्टर ने डंडा ले कर पीटा। हमने कहा क्यों, ऐसी कौन सी जरूरत आ पड़ी? तो लोगों ने बताया कि पिछली बाढ़ का पैसा अभी तक नहीं मिला।

3.00 P.M.

यह बाढ़-पीड़ित लोग प्रदर्शन करने आए थे। उन्होंने नारे वगैरह लगाए तो कलेक्टर नाराज हो गया और डंडा लेकर पीटने लगा। एक नेता को एन०सु०का० में बंद कर दिया। हम ने कहा इतना पागलपन क्यों? पिछली बाढ़ को बीते 8-9 महीने बीत गए हैं, अगली बाढ़ भी आने वाली है और अभी तक उन लोगों को पैसा नहीं बंटा है। तो मैडम, अफसरों के स्तर पर भी बहुत गड़बड़ी हो जाया करती है। मैं इस सदन के मार्फत निवेदन करूंगा कि यह इतनी बड़ी आफत है कि हम लोग इस का राजनीतिकरण न करें। मैडम, हम लोगों ने हर चीज का राजनीतिकरण किया है—भगवान का, धर्म का, अपराध का, दौलत का, सब चीज का, लेकिन जब कुदरत की आफत आ जाए तो उस का राजनीतिकरण न करें। इस से जो लोग आफत में फंसे हैं उन को भी तसल्ली होगी कि हमारे लिए सही मायने में मदद की तसल्ली हो रही है।

इन्हीं शब्दों के साथ मैं सरकार से आग्रह करूंगा कि आप बिना भेदभाव के जो इलाके इस समय इस आफत में नहीं फंसे हैं, उन से मदद ली जाय। मैं नायडू साहब को सुन रहा था कि कोई-कोई इलाके बाढ़, समुद्री चक्रवात या बाढ़ की चपेट में आ जाते हैं और कई इलाके हैं जहां हमेशा हरियाली बनी रहती है। हम को कभी-कभी लगता है कि अपने घर के अलावा सब के घर में ज्यादा हरियाली दिखायी देती है, लेकिन जो इलाके हरियाली में हैं, उन इलाकों का फर्ज बनता है, ताकत के बल पर नहीं फर्ज के बल पर उन से वसूली होनी चाहिए।

रह गयी बात बाढ़ की तो हम को याद है, पिछली बार बाढ़ आई थी तो अटल जी गोरखपुर गए थे और वहां के लोगों ने कहा था कि नेपाल की नदियां बहकर बिहार को तबाह करती बांग्लादेश तक जाती

है, इसके लिए आप नेपाल की सरकार से बात कीजिए। हम लोग सरकार में थे तब भी वहां के लोगों ने कहा था। जो लोग भी सरकार में होते हैं उन से यह बात कही जाती है। जनता का काम है अपनी सरकार से फरियाद करना। अटल जी ने वहां आश्वासन दिया था कि हम नेपाल सरकार से इस बारे में बात करेंगे। पहले वाली सरकारों ने भी बात की है, लेकिन हम जानते हैं कि नेपाल वहां बांध बनने नहीं देगा क्योंकि जब कभी भी बांध बनेगा तो बांध के उस पार जो जमीन होगी, जोकि नेपाल की जमीन होगी, वह डूब जायेगी और कोई भी स्वेच्छा से दूसरे देश की बाढ़ को रोकने के लिए अपने को डूबे क्षेत्र में परिवर्तित करना नहीं चाहेगा। उस पानी की निकासी के लिए कोई समुचित व्यवस्था की गारंटी भारत सरकार की तरफ से नेपाल को नहीं दी जाती, जोकि बात अभी तक बढ़ नहीं पाई है, वह इस के लिए तैयार नहीं होगा। मैडम, पिछली बार थोड़ीसी बाढ़ दिल्ली में आ गयी थी और दिल्ली के लोग तबाह हो रहे थे, लेकिन उतनी तबाही तो बिहार, पूर्वी उत्तर प्रदेश और बंगाल में हर साल होती है। मैडम, यहां जमुना बाढ़ नहीं लाती है। यह बड़ी गहरी नदी है। गंगा भी बाढ़ नहीं लाती है, वह नीचे की तरफ धारदार बहती है। फिर जब बंगाल से पूरब जाती है तो उस को जमीन सपाट मिल जाती है और जब नेपाल की नदियां मिलने लगती हैं तो वह बंगाल तक प्रलय करती जाती हैं। तो इन नदियों को जोड़ने के लिए, इन में बहने वाले पानी को सुव्यवस्थित करने के लिए ताकि बाकी सूखे के इलाकों तक पानी पहुंचाया जा सके श्री राव सरकार के जमाने से इस बारे में हम लोगों ने कई बार सत्ता में आकर योजनाएं बनाईं, लेकिन वह सारी-की-सारी योजनाएं धरी रह गयीं। इसलिए नदियों को कंट्रोल करने के लिए, उन के पानी को रास्ते पर लाने के लिए, उन लोगों के इस्तेमाल के लिए जहां कि पानी होता ही नहीं है, उन के लिए कोई भी तरीका अंतर्राज्यीय परिषद या जैसे भी हो सके, निकाला जा सके तो बाढ़ को रोका जा सकता है।

मैडम, ब्रह्मपुत्र नदी पर भी एक बार बांध बनाने की बात हुई थी, लेकिन बांध के उस पार जो लोग बसे थे, वह यही कहते थे कि हम डूब जाएंगे जैसे कि सरदार सरोवर वाले कहते हैं और उस पर सुप्रीम कोर्ट फरमान जारी कर देती है...

उपसभाध्यक्ष (कुमारी सरोज खापर्डे): मिश्र जी, अब आप समाप्त कीजिए।

श्री जनेश्वर मिश्र: हां, मैडम। ब्रह्मपुत्र नदी को रोकना तो शायद मुश्किल पड़ रहा है। हम को याद है हम जल-संसाधन मंत्रालय में थे, अटल जी उस समय नेता विरोधी दल थे, उन्होंने ब्रह्मपुत्र नदी के बारे में पूछ लिया कि असम का प्रतिनिधि मंडल हम से मिला और उस ने बताया कि वहां बहुत तबाही हुई है।

हमने कह दिया था, आज फिर मैं कहना चाहता हूं कि हिन्दुस्तान की और नदियां तो बेटी कही जाती हैं, उनको मां कहा जाता है, लेकिन ब्रह्मपुत्र नदी जो है वह बेटा नदी है, पुत्र नदी है तो उसको, बेटा को कंट्रोल करने में बहुत मुश्किल पड़ जाती है, जबकि बेटी को कंट्रोल करना आसान है। तो यह पुत्र नदी है और इसको कंट्रोल करने के लिए अभी तक मुश्किल आती है।...**(व्यवधान)**...

श्रीमती कमला सिन्हा (बिहार): सोनभद्र भी पुत्र नदी है।

श्री जनेश्वर मिश्र: नदी सोन है, सोनभद्र तो जिला हो गया, लेकिन सोन को हमारे यहां पुत्री नदी ही माना जाता है। खैर, इस विवाद में नहीं जाना चाहूंगा। यह जो छोटी छोटी बरसाती नदियां आती हैं,

मैडम, इनको कंट्रोल किया जा सकता है और उनको खेती के काम में, बिजली पैदा करने के काम में, कारखाने के पानी के काम में इस्तेमाल किया जा सकता है। मैं उम्मीद करता हूं कि यह जो आफत आई है उड़ीसा, बंगाल, आंध्र प्रदेश में, मेरा ख्याल है कि बिहार में भी यह आफत आएगी, इस सारी आफत का मुकाबला करने के लिए सरकार केवल एक खास ग्रुप के लोगों की सरकार बनकर नहीं बल्कि राष्ट्र की सर्वसम्मत सरकार बनकर प्रयास करेगी तो हम सभी लोगों की तरफ से उसमें सहायता का आपको आश्वासन देते हैं। धन्यवाद।

DR. JOYSREE GOSWAMI MAHANTA (Assam): Madam, first of all, I, on my on behalf and on behalf of my party, the AGP and on behalf of the people of Assam express sympathy for the people of the calamity-stricken States of Orissa, West Bengal and Andhra Pradesh. Secondly, I would like to share my views with other hon. Members of this House. Madam, the people of these calamity-stricken States must get relief and rehabilitation with immediate effect. Madam, my State of Assam is also facing the same problem. Assam is facing this long standing problem of floods and cyclone every year. The local name of cyclone in Assam is Boroichila. It starts in April every year. Floods strike Assam five or six times every year. It is a routine process. The people of Assam have become habitual to living with floods. This problem is causing havoc in the State. As Mishraji has already said, this is the only male river, Putra of Lord Brahma. Because of the river Bara and the river Brahmaputra, floods strike every year in Assam. These floods stop all the developmental activities for five to six months a year. Every year there is a communication and railway breakdown. So far as the relief and rehabilitation process is concerned, there is very lengthy formality from the side of the Central Government. People do not get help at the appropriate time. Therefore, I urge upon the Central Government to consider this problem as a national problem. We have the Brahmaputra Board in Assam to control the floods in the Brahmaputra river, to generate power and also to help the farmers in the area of irrigation. But no fund has been allocated to this. Since the past many years, so many schemes have been brought out, and piles and piles of papers on these schemes are there. Some of these schemes are: Dihang, Dibang, Pagladia, Tipaimukh and so on. These are all multi-purpose dam projects. But, these are not being financed. Proposals are there. Papers are there. But no funds are being allocated. So, I urge upon the Government, through this House, to take some immediate steps to do something for the people of Assam. Madam, you know that 80 per cent of the total population of Assam are farmers. Immediate funding is all the more important for a State like Assam, which has been neglected since the post-independence period. The people of the North-Eastern region have a strong feeling that they have been neglected by the Government of India since the past several years. Madam, calamities frighten the people there. They are sometimes helped by giving relief from the Prime Minister's

Relief Fund. But for solving the problem permanently, there is an immediate need to activate the Brahmaputra Board. Madam, some time back, the Central Government had said that the neighbouring State of Arunachal Pradesh was not, in the same way, co-operating towards the activation of the Brahmaputra Board in the control of floods. But the new Government of Arunachal Pradesh has taken a different stand, and they have stated time and again that they would co-operate in solving the flood problem in Assam. Madam, I reiterate my view that a time-bound programme is needed for the permanent solution of this problem. Thank you, Madam.

SHRI M.J. VARKEY MATTATHIL (Kerala): First of all, let me express my sympathy for my brothers in West Bengal, Andhra Pradesh and Orissa for undergoing cyclones recently. When we speak about cyclones, it happened not just in a few States, but it happened in the whole country. I was listening to my friend, Shri Venkaiah Naidu, who talked about the problems in Andhra Pradesh and the report he has just received on the extent of damage that had taken place there. I want to put a simple question. What action has been taken by the Government of India? He was talking about helping people. I would say that we should try to solve the very problem. My previous speaker, who is sitting here, gave a suggestion of planting trees in the coastal areas. This is a fine suggestion if that can be implemented. I myself had planted trees. But last week I lost some trees, some plants. I lost about an acre of land. When any of us speaks in the House, it should come right from the horse's mouth. I lost 600 plants of areca nut. I lost 43 coconut trees. It is my personal experience. There is the idea of planting trees in the coastal areas. It is called the windbreaker tree—a belt on windbreaker. The Government of India has a big scheme for afforestation. But it is only on paper. If the Government of India or the people concerned or the Minister concerned is prepared to put me in a committee, I can give some good suggestions on how we can save some of our plantations.

Now, I am from Kerala. We have high and low ranges. *(Interruptions)* Madam, I do not understand Hindi. Otherwise, I could have given him an answer. He is talking about my speech.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE): You better address the Chair.

SHRI M.J. VARKEY MATTATHIL: This is a disturbance. I am not used to it. So, Madam, in Kerala, we have high ranges and low ranges. We have landslides. We have floods in rivers. For floods, we have protection walls made with the help of the State Government and the Central Government. Why can't all the rivers in India have protection walls built of concrete and walls built for prevention of soil erosion? We are asking the Government of India to help and help and help. The help should be for prevention as

prevention is better than cure. I believe in that. For people to do plantation, for people to construct houses, for people to live in habitable houses which are free from danger, they should be provided proper housing, proper shelter. The wind should not take away their houses. There are poor people suffering in Orissa, Bihar, U.P. I do not understand about those States because I come from Kerala where we, the people of Kerala, are doing better in all aspects like housing, cleanliness, water and so on. In regard to natural calamities also, we are blessed because Kerala is proud to be in God's own country and that is because we pray hard. We do not do pooja just for rain or just to stop the rain. We do not do pooja just to have some things done. We pray. We pray for our brothers. That is exactly why the Kerala people are blessed. It is God's own country.

Now, coming back to my point, Kerala is having the problem of landslides. Floods in Kerala started in last May, on the 3rd of May 1999. Normally, the monsoon starts in the first week of June. That is the South-West Monsoon. Now, it is the North-East Monsoon which is going on. Even now, at the end of October, it is going on. The Government of Kerala has sought the help of the Central Government. But we have nobody in the Lok Sabha or the Rajya Sabha to represent in the Government. Fortunately, Shri O. Rajagopal is here. I think he will speak on our behalf. He is not here. I will request O. Rajagopalji to speak on behalf of the people of Kerala, especially for the people who are suffering from floods. They have lost their houses. They have lost their cattle. I request this august House and the Government of India to come to the help of the people of Kerala, especially in a place called Poonjar in the district of Kottayam. It is a place where we lost 120 houses and we had landslides.

श्री रामचन्द्रैया रूमन्दला (आंध्र प्रदेश): महोदया, आज मुझ से पहले बहुत से सदस्यों ने बाढ़ के बारे में और समुद्री तूफान के बारे में बहुत सी बातें कही हैं। मुख्यतः आंध्र प्रदेश में दो तरह की समस्याएं हैं—एक तो उत्तरी कोस्टल ऐरिया में श्रीकाकुलम में तूफान आया और दूसरा रॉयलसीमा और तेलंगाना में अकाल है। वहां वर्षा न होने के कारण खेती-बाड़ी सब सूख गई है और जानवरों को पीने के लिए पानी नहीं मिल रहा है और न उनके खाने के लिए कुछ है। इसकी जांच करने के लिए भारत सरकार ने एक कमेटी भेजी। कमेटी ने रिपोर्ट भी दी। लेकिन अब तक हमारे राज्य के लिए कोई भी सहायता भारत सरकार से नहीं मिली। हमारे मुख्य मंत्री जी ने वहां के लोगों को, किसानों को बचाने के लिए और गांव में पानी पीने के लिए आदि कार्यक्रम लेकर 30 करोड़ रुपया और पांच करोड़ रुपया जानवरों के लिए पानी का प्रबंध करने के लिए और रोजगार के लिए, काम के लिए किसानों को जो बीज दिया जाता है। सब्सिडी पर देते हुए बहुत से कार्यक्रम लिए हैं। मगर भारत सरकार से अनुरोध किया है कि इसके लिए तुरन्त रुपया भेजने की आवश्यकता है और तुरन्त 200 करोड़ रुपया भेजिए जो इन गरीबों के लिए काम में आ सकता है। लेकिन अब तक भारत सरकार ने कोई भी कदम ऐसा नहीं उठाया है। जहां पर आंध्र प्रदेश में तेलंगाना में रायलसीमा में जो अकाल आया है तथा वहां की जो परिस्थिति बहुत ही भयंकर है

उसके बारे में कुछ न कुछ तुरन्त मदद करनी चाहिए। जैसे उदाहरण के तौर पर, मनुष्य को कोई बीमारी आती है, रोग आता है तो दवा नहीं लेने पर वह रोग बढ़ जाता है। उसी तरह कोई प्रांत में, कोई राज्य में कहीं भी गरीबों के लिए या जनता के लिए कुछ आपत्ति आए तो भारत सरकार हो या राज्य सरकार हो इनको कुछ न कुछ सहायता करने के कदम उठाने चाहिए। वह कानून, यह कानून, यह रिपोर्ट वह रिपोर्ट कहते हुए समय पर उनको मदद नहीं मिलती। अगर गरीब जनता को मदद नहीं मिली और हम सरकार में बैठकर के, परिपालन करके, यहां चर्चा करके उस जनता तक वह कार्यक्रम अगर नहीं पहुंचा पाए तो यह सब बेकार है। महोदया, आपके माध्यम से भारत सरकार से मैं यह अनुरोध करता हूं कि जहां भी कठिनाई है, नेशनल क्लेमिटी है वहां पर तुरन्त कुछ न कुछ आर्थिक रूप से या और कोई रूप से मदद मिले तथा उस गरीब जनता के लिए कुछ काम करके दिखाना चाहिए, यह सरकार का फर्ज होता है। अतः मैं भारत सरकार से यह अनुरोध करता हूं कि जहां भी कठिनाई है स्पेशल ड्राइव करके उनके लिए तुरन्त सहायता कार्यक्रम लेना आवश्यक है। धन्यवाद।

श्री नरेन्द्र यादव (बिहार): धन्यवाद महोदया, आपने ऐसे महत्वपूर्ण सवाल पर मुझे बोलने का अवसर दिया। मैं उड़ीसा, आंध्र प्रदेश और पश्चिम बंगाल में आए भीषण चक्रवाती तूफान से प्रभावित हुई हिन्दुस्तान की जनता के प्रति अपनी सहानुभूति प्रगट करते हुए कहना चाहता हूं कि यह चक्रवाती तूफान कितना खतरनाक होता है। इसको खुद मैंने भोगा है। पिछले सितम्बर के अंतिम सप्ताह में जब चक्रवाती तूफान आया और बिहार की तरफ रहा तो इसके चलते चार लोक सभा क्षेत्रों का चुनाव भी स्थगित करना पड़ा। तुरत-फुरत जहां गंगा की बाढ़ से बिहार उभर भी नहीं पाया था चक्रवाती तूफान बिहार होकर के गुजरा। वहां के लोग बांध और सड़कों पर अपना जीवन जी रहे थे और राज्य सरकार के द्वारा पोलिथिन की सहायता दी गई थी। वहां मवेशी बांध पर बैठे हुए थे। पूरी आबादी जो प्रभावित थी गंगा के कटाव से वह बांधों पर रह रही थी। उनके पूरे के पूरे कच्चे घर गिर गए थे और 72 घंटे तक प्रभावित जनता बांध पर ठिठुरते हुए रही। मैं आपके माध्यम से यह जानना चाहता हूं कि भारत सरकार ने इस प्राकृतिक आपदा के लिए क्या उपाय किया है? मैं समझता हूं अभी तक केन्द्र सरकार की ओर से किसी तरह की कोई टीम वहां नहीं गई है न ही किसी प्रकार की राहत सामग्री भेजी गई है। जब हमारे बिहार की यह हालत है तो बिहार के पूर्व में जो पश्चिमी बंगाल है, आंध्र प्रदेश है, उड़ीसा है, वहां की प्रभावित जनता का क्या हाल हो रहा होगा?

महोदया, मैं आपके माध्यम से भारत सरकार का ध्यान आकृष्ट करना चाहूंगा कि अकेले बिहार में जहां से मैं आता हूं, दो सौ नदियां गंगा में मिलती हैं और गंगा का जो लोअर ज़ोन है, वहां से प्रभावित कटिहार ज़िला, खगड़िया, भागलपुर, राजमहल, पूर्णिया ये सब जहां लोक सभा के चुनाव स्थगित हुए, वहां की जनता की बदहाली मैंने स्वयं अपनी आंखों से देखी है और वहां की दुर्दशा को मैंने देखा है। खुद उस चक्रवाती तूफान के समय मैंने गांव-गांव जाकर, नदी में तैरकर स्थिति का जायज़ा लिया है। इसलिए मैं आपके माध्यम से भारत सरकार से अपील करना चाहता हूं कि कृपया इस संबंध में कोई भेदभाव न बरते। आखिरकार वह भी हिंदुस्तान की जनता है चाहे किसी राज्य में रहने वाले हो लेकिन राज्य के साथ जब भेदभाव होता है तो निश्चित तौर से लोगों में अक्रोश भड़कता है। अतः महोदया, मैं आपके माध्यम से केन्द्र सरकार से चाहूंगा कि तुरंत एक केन्द्रीय टीम वहां भेजी जाए एवं सहायता भी वहां पहुंचाई जाए, भरपूर सहायता क्योंकि अकेले राज्य सरकार के बस की बात नहीं है कि व्यापक रूप

से सवा दो सौ किलोमीटर प्रभावित जो गंगा के कटाव का क्षेत्र है और जो प्रभावित जनता है, उन तक सहायता पहुंचा सके। महोदया, आपने मुझे इस महत्वपूर्ण विषय पर बोलने का अवसर दिया, इसके लिए बहुत-बहुत धन्यवाद।

SHRI ANANTA SETHI (Orissa): Madam, I associate myself with all hon. Members who have spoken on the subject of cyclonic storm which has severely hit Orissa, that is Barhampur, Gajapati, some parts of Andhra Pradesh, West Bengal and Bihar. While speaking, I am thinking of my area. Just now, I got information from there that by 4.50 p.m. my district Balasore is going to be hit severely. About Paradeep, many hon. Members have informed. In Paradeep Port and nearby areas, the velocity of the wind is more than 240 KMPH, causing a lot of damage to houses. The hosues are mostly thatched ones, asbestos sheeted ones, tiled ones. Pucca houses are only 2—5% in these areas where the cyclonic storm is passing through. The destruction is going on.

Madam, I am told that the sea water is rising up to a height of more than 20 feet. That means, even Paradeep Port is in danger. The are which are going to be affected is a very vast area: right from Puri, to Balasore, Mayurbhanj, Jagatsinghpur, Cuttack, Kendrapada, Bhadrak, part of Dhenkenal, and part of Keonjhar. These thickly populated areas are going to be damaged very severely. These areas cover more than 200 Kms from the sea side. It covers more than 2/3rd of the population of Orissa. Madam, we donot know what is happening now.

When I talked to Bhubaneshwar, to my home, I was told that one asbestos sheet of a nearby house had been blown away. Such a thing is happening. In Bhubaneshwar and Cuttack, the velocity of the wind is 160-170 KMPH. Now, we cannot imagine what can happen to these areas. But the point is we have already suffered on account of the 18th October cyclone in Berhampur and Gajapati districts. You already know it.

The financial condition of the State Government is not that good. We also have overdraft problems.

The people of Orissa are grateful that the Prime Minister had visited Orissa. Also, our hon. Congress President and Opposition Leader, Smt. Sonia Gandhi, visited the area. They have associated themselves with the problems of Orissa. Our hon. Prime Minister has released Rs. 200 crores as assistance. But what type of funds they have released?

The assistance given by the Central Government is only an advance assistance to cope with the situation arising out of drought and floods and to solve the problem created by the earlier cyclonic storm. Orissa cannot bear such type of natural calamity. At last I have not seen such a strong cyclone earlier that we are witnessing this year. Madam, we are familiar with the

floods, drought and cyclone because they are a regular visitor to our State. Every year we are facing all these problems. But this year it is a very severe cyclonic storm which is causing a lot of damage to the State. No precautionary measures can do anything. They will not help anybody in such a situation. In spite of precautionary measures, in the earlier cyclonic storm lakhs of houses were demolished fully or partially. Now about ten thousand houses have collapsed fully or partially, about four hundred people have been severely injured and 116 people have already died. There is a heavy loss of livestock, roads, sources of water and everything. This time we are having this cyclonic storm in thickly populated areas. Madam, there should be a national consensus or a national policy for providing assistance to meet such a crisis. They should give assistance in the form of grants. No State Government can solve such a big problem on its own and cannot give any assistance to those people who may be in trouble. Now our State Government has already submitted a memorandum and they have requested the Central Government at least for an assistance of Rs. 100 crores. Instead of giving loans, an advance assistance should be given in order to take up rehabilitation measures for those people who were affected in the earlier cyclonic storm of 18th. Now what the quantum of loan will be, we cannot know about it unless we have a detailed report on the damages. But, I will appeal to this august House and the Government, through you, Madam, that at this juncture the Central Government should generously provide funds in the form of grants to the State Governments so that they can meet the problem that is being created by this cyclonic storm.

SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA (Rajasthan): Madam Vice-Chairperson, through you, I want to express my heartfelt sympathies to all the memebrs of the families who have been affected by the severe cyclone that has come in the State of West Bengal, Orissa and Andhra Pradesh. My colleagues have mentioned it in detail. I just want to touch one or two points. Natural calamity is an annual affair in our country. Every year either we have floods in Assam, as has been mentioned by my colleague here and Mrs. Mohanta, or similarly, we have a drought every two or three years in Rajasthan. These have become regular affairs. It is for these reasons I want to submit that we should do something concrete of face this type of natural calamities. Even the richest countries like the United States are not away from the natural calamities. Even Japan could not face an earthquake despite all the scientific development. I do not know if we have that much of scientific development, as has been pointed out by Justice Misra.

I do not know whether it is really possible to stop this of natural calamities; or, even to reduce their effect. If it is so, how expensive is it? Can our country afford this? Do we have resources for that? If not, I would like to give a suggestion to the Government. Please provide 2-3 per cent of the

annual budget to this. Create a special fund only to face this kind of natural calamities, which is really going to help the poorest of the poor, who are very badly affected, at the time of their need. This budget has to be there, not only for these States but also for other States, only to meet the natural calamities. I mentioned about Rajasthan. In every two to three years—even this year—we have a complete drought. I will be too glad if Rajasthan gets some flood water, either from West Bengal or from other States. Madam, I appeal to the Government—I do not know whether this point has been raised by anybody in this House—that they should consider helping the Government of Rajasthan, at least, by releasing Rs. 650 crores, which is very urgently required to face the drought situation there. Otherwise, in the next one or two months, we are sure, hundreds of families will die out of hunger. With these words, Madam Vice-Chairperson, I thank you very much for having given me this opportunity to speak on the subject.

SHRI BRATIN SENGUPTA (West Bengal): Madam, the situation that is reported is almost like the situation that we had in Kandla, if not worse. It is quite natural that if the cyclone, wnich hit Paradip in the morning, causes this kind of massive damage to areas of coastal Orissa, the situation in coastal parts of West Bengal is also going to be equally bad. My only request, through you, to the hon. Prime Minister and to the Ministry of Relief Operations, in this kind of a crisis, is, without waiting for any kind of SOS, memorandum or anything else, the Ministry of Relief Operations, in concurrence with the Prime Minister's Office, should rush to the spot, with the assessment team, to save the situation as far as possible. This is may only request, through you, to the Government. Thank you.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO): Madam, I am thankful and grateful to all the hon. Members who have taken keen interest in this Short Duration Discussion and expressed their concern about the calamities in various States. I would also like to share their concern for the people, who have been affected by these calamities, in various parts of our country. Since various hon. Members have raised very many relevant points, and, in my view, many points have been repeated, I would like to give a reply, not individually, but to all the hon. Members. I would definitely like to answer the points raised by hon. Members in their speeches.

Before dealing with the points raised by the hon. Members, I would like to inform the hon. Members and this House about the situation regarding occurrence of natural clamities in the country and the steps being taken for mitigating their adverse effect.

Our country is prone to various natural calamities like drought, floods, cyclones, earthquakes, landslides and avalanches. On an average, an area of

40 million hectares is prone to floods and the area affected annually by floods is 8 million hectares. A long coastal line of 5,700 kms of the country exposes to tropical cyclones originating in the Bay of Bengal and in the Arabian Sea. The country has about 50-60 per cent of its total area vulnerable to seismic activities of varying intensity. The earthquakes in Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh have demonstrated that the areas considered comparatively safe till now, are really not so. During this monsoon season of 1999 (June to September), 28 out of 35 meteorological sub-divisions, covering 81% area and 67% districts of the country, received normal to excess rainfall, thus making 1999 the 11th successive normal monsoon year. A severe earthquake occurred in six hill districts of Uttar Pradesh, Chamoli and Rudraprayag being the worst affected. Most of the States have been affected by heavy rains/floods that resulted in loss of human lives and animals, and damage to crops, houses and public property. Some States had reported prevalence of drought conditions, with varying magnitude. The recent cyclone over the Bay of Bengal affected the States of Andhra Pradesh, Orissa and West Bengal and caused extensive damage to life and property in Orissa.

Fourteen States, namely, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Punjab, Rajasthan, Tripura, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal have reported damage in varying degrees, due to floods, heavy rains, landslides, etc. During the South-West monsoon, 1999. The magnitude of floods was comparatively severe in the States of Assam, Bihar, Kerala & Madhya Pradesh. As per reports received, these clamities have taken a toll of 727 human lives, caused loss of about 2100 animals, affected 7.16 lakh houses/huts and damaged 6.87 lakh hectare of cropped area in these fourteen States.

The basic responsibility for undertaking rescue, relief and rehabilitation measures in the event of natural calamities is that of the State Government concerned. The role of the Central Government is supportive, in terms of physical and financial resoursces and complementary in sectors such as transport, warning and inter-state movement of foodgrains. Relief Manuals and Codes are available for undertaking emergency operations.

The National Contingency Action Plan facilitates launching of relief operations without delay. This plan identifies the initiatives required to be taken by various Central Ministries/Departments in the wake of natural calamities, sets down the procedure and determines the focal points in the administrative machinery. Similar plans are also drawn by the State Governments. At the State level, the State Relief Commissioner directs and controls the relief operations.

The policy and arrangements for financing of relief expenditure in the states affected by natual calamities are governed by the recommendations of

the Finance Commissions appointed from time to time. The present scheme in force for the period 1995—2000, is based on the recommendations of the Tenth Finance Commission. Under the Scheme in force from 1st April, 1995, a Calamity Relief Fund has been constitued by contributions from the Central and State Governments, in the ratio of 3:1, to undertake relief and rehabilitation measures in the wake of natural calamities. For the period 1995-96 to 1999-2000, a total allocation of Rs. 6304.27 crore, including Central share of Rs. 4728.19 crore and State share of Rs. 1576.08 crore has been made. In addition to the Calamity Relief Fund, the National Fund for Calamity Relief (NFCR) has been created to deal with calamities of rare severity. Assistance from the National Fund for Calamity Relief is considered, in accordance with a set procedure.

The funds amounting to Rs. 1264.24 crore have been released to the states from the National Fund for Calamity Relief during the last four years. Keeping in view the requests received from various States for financial assistance from NFCR in the wake of natural calamities during current year, my Ministry is sending the proposal for enhancement of corpus of the NFCR.

As already indicated, the recent cyclonic storm affected Andhra Pradesh, Orissa and West Bengal, Orissa being severely affected, even the process is going on. These State Governments were informed about the impending storm and requested to take suitable proparatory measures like timely evacuation of people living in low lying and valunerable areas to safer places and instructing the fishermen not to venture into the sea. The Government of India remained in constant touch with these State Governments at the highest level and monitored the situation.

The concerned Central Ministries/Departments have undertaken all necesary steps to provide assistance to the State Government of Orissa in relief and restoration measures and for immediate repair/restoration of damaged infrastructure. Ex-gratia @ Rs. 50,000/- has been provided from the Prime Minister's National Relief Fund to the next of kin of deceased.

The Hon'ble Prime Minister made an aerial survey of the affected areas on 24th October, 1999, and reviewed the situation with the State Chief Minister. He exprssed solidarity with the affected population and assured the State Government that the Central Government would do whatever is necessary and practicable to assist them in mitigating the impact of this disaster. My colleagues, Shri Juel Oram and Shri Debendra Pradhan had also made an aerial survey of the affected areas on 19th October, 1999, for an assessment of the situation.

During 1999-2000, an amount of Rs. 143.59 crore to Andhra Pradesh, Rs. 56.67 crore to Orissa and Rs. 59.33 crore to West Bengal have been allocated from the Calamity Relief Fund. Three quartrly instalments of

Central share amounting to Rs. 80.77 crore to Andhra Pradesh, Rs. 31.88 crore to Orisa and Rs. 33.38 crore to West Bengal have already been released. Advance release of fourth quarterly instalment of Central share amounting to Rs. 26.92 crore to Andhra Pradesh and Rs. 31.88 crore to Orissa have also been released.

Three quarterly instalments of Central share of Calamity Relief Fund for the year 1999-2000 have been released to all other States. In case of Madhya Pradesh, fourth quarterly instalment has also been released in advance.

The requests from the Government of Andhra Pradesh for financial assistance from NFCR in the wake of drought and recent cyclone are under active consideration and action will be taken immedialy. The Government of Orissa have submitted a memorandum for Central assistance in the wake of recent cyclone only yesterday and an Inter-Ministerial Team will be sent there shortly; and immediate action will be taken in this regard. To take further action, Madam, I would like to mention that a Cabinet meeting is scheduled for tomorrow to deal with the situation.

Many honourable Members have given valuable suggestions for mitigating the adverse impact of natural disasters in the long term, which relate to other Ministries like Water Resources. I would take up all these suggestions with all my colleagues for immediate appropriate action.

I wish to assure the honourable Members that no efforts will be spared in assisting the State Governments in tackling the situation effectively.

Madam, on receipt of first information from India Meteorological Department regarding formation of cyclonic storm on 26th October, 1999, the Chief Secretaries and Relief Commissioners of all the State Governments of Andhra Pradesh, Orissa and Bengal were requested through fax messages to take all preparatory measures.

The Central Relief Chief Commissioner spoke to the Relief Commissioners of the concerned States on October 26. Senior Officers of the Department of Agriculture and Cooperation kept constant and close contacts with the Chief Secretaries and other senior Officers of the above States from 26th October onwards. The National Calamity Relief Committee, under the Chairmanship of the Cabinet Secretary, reviewed the status of preparedness in the meetings held at 2200 hrs on 27th October, at 1600 hrs. and 2200 hrs. on 28th October. Representatives of the Ministry, Defence, Home Affairs, Power, Telecommunications, Shipping, Surface transport, Railways, Petroleum and Natural Gas, Information and Broadcasting, India Meteorological Department and the Resident Commissioners of the concerned states were present at the above meetings.

Secretary (Agriculture and Cooperation) also sent a communication to the Chief Secretary of Orissa Immediately after the meeting of the National Calamity Committee, apprising him of the latest position of the system and requesting him to take necessary preparatory measures, including evacuation of the people, stopping of trains in the vulnerable areas. As per the I.M.D., the system had begun at the Orissa Coast at 1030 hours on 29th October. The rainfall process has taken about two hours. As per the information gathered from the State Government at 1.30 p.m., the system has struck the cities of Bhubaneswar and Cuttack with a very high-speed gales. The information on damage in the coastal areas will take some time to come.

Close contact is being kept at the highest level and all necessary assistance would be extended to the State Governments to meet the situation.

Madam, I come from an area, which is vulnerable to cyclones. When I was President of the Panchayat Board, Godavari had inundated 12 places in our district. One-third of the area was under water. So, I know the situation. So many cyclones have occurred in the area, but in 1996, a severe cyclone had occurred in our area. I was one of the persons, who were living in that area at that time. For one hour the cyclone struck on one side. It gave a gap of half-an-hour. During that half-an-hour, it struck the other side. So, it struck all the places. Madam, I know the miseries of the people there, because I know the situation. I know the then Chief Minister was so quick to send the relief, that it reached faster than the wind that struck us. So, the State Government has to come up to that level. I would briefly say that the situation in Orissa is a challenge to the human heart. I assure the Members and the people that the Government will take the challenge and would give all possible assistance to the people and to the Government. We will not let them down in any way. With these words, I conclude.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE): Mr. Minister, Some senior Members, like Shri Pranab Mukherjee, would like to seek clarification from you on your reply to the debate that you have just given.

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE (West Bengal): Madam, if I have heard him correcly, he says that the Government of India had received the information from the State Government at 1.30 p.m. Madam, I was to go to Orissa, but could not do so, because the air service there has been cancelled, as the cyclone has reached Orissa. It is not possible to land in Orissa. We are keeping in touch with the State Government. But most respectfully, I would like to submit to the Minister, this House is meeting for a couple of hours more. If the Minister can get some latest information and share that information with the House, before the House adjourns, because today is the last day, the House would be appreciative of the efforts made by the Minister

SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO: As soon as I get any information, I will share it with the House.

SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Madam, during our discussion, apart from what is there, what is happening, we have also raised certain questions. What would the Government do about the future because this is a very serious problem occurring time and again? We have expected some response from the Minister. Unfortunately, that was not there. Another thing he said was about a memorandum; and the money that was allocated. He also referred to the visit of a Central team. The State Government had asked for Rs. 728 crores to tackle the situation. Actually the loss is much more Funds have been released. Funds have exhausted. Will the Minister inform the House whether his Ministry has put up a note before the Cabinet to release more funds to tackle the severity of the damage that has taken place?

श्री बालकवि बैरागी (मध्य प्रदेश): मैडम, माननीय मंत्री महोदय ने अपने वक्तव्य में जो कुछ कहा है उसमें मध्य प्रदेश का संदर्भ भी दिया है और मध्य प्रदेश के संदर्भ में आपने जो टिप्पणी की है मुझे उसके आधार पर आपसे यह निवेदन करना है और कहना है कि मध्य प्रदेश सरकार ने गत वर्ष से लेकर अभी तक दैवी विपत्तियों से निपटने के लिए 4138 करोड़ रुपया सरकार से मांगा। उसके बदले कुल मिला कर के 102 करोड़ रुपया उस सरकार को दिया गया। मंत्रिगण जब ऐसी टिप्पणियां करते हैं और उसमें जब राजनीतिक दुर्गंध आती है तब फिर हमको ये प्रश्न करने पड़ते हैं। क्या माननीय मंत्री महोदय इस दिशा में कुछ कहेंगे कि आखिर यह भेदभाव क्यों हो रहा है? हमारे वहां पर इतना बड़ा संघर्ष चल रहा है। कहीं तूफान है, कहीं सूखा है, कहीं बाढ़ है, कहीं कुछ है। मैं अभी-अभी बीकानेर से लौट कर आया हूं। बीकानेर जिले में इस सदी का सर्वाधिक बड़ा सूखा पड़ रहा है। वहां के बारे में एक अक्षर आपने नहीं बताया है। राजस्थान का संदर्भ तो आपने ले लिया लेकिन आप इस बारे में बात नहीं कर रहे हैं। मैं चाहता हूं कि आप अपने वक्तव्य को पूरा करें। ...(**व्यवधान**)

जी हां, साइक्लोन के साथ दैवी विपत्ति की आपने टिप्पणी की है, इसलिए मुझे कहना है। यह दैवी विपत्ति है। ...(**व्यवधान**)

उपसभाध्यक्ष (कुमारी सरोज खापर्डे): ठीक है, कोई बात नहीं, आप बैठिए। ...(**व्यवधान**)

श्री बालकवि बैरागी: दैवी विपत्ति पर बात चल रही थी और आपने दैवी विपत्ति का उत्तर दिया, इसलिए मुझे आपसे मध्य प्रदेश और राजस्थान के संदर्भ में पूछना है। धन्यवाद।

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE): Mr. Minister, would you like to respond?

SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO: From West Bengal Government, we have received two reports. We are sending the necessary amount. West Bengal will not be left out. All the coastal areas in the East are affected. The position is the same. Due to repeated cyclones in Orissa, they have drawn my attention. That is why I have mentioned about it. About

the flood control programme, I have already said about it yesterday in the Lok Sabha. ...*(Interruptions)*...

We have received reports. It will take one or two days. So, Madam, ...*(Interruptions)*...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE): Mr. Dipankar Mukherjee and Mr. Basu, let the Minister reply.

SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE (West Bengal): He is not answering our question. We would like to know from the Minister. How much time would he take to release the money? It is already one month old. ...*(Interruptions)*... Why are you talking again? Why are you interrupting?

4.00 P.M.

श्री अनन्तराय देवशंकर दवे (गुजरात): मंत्री जी जवाब तो दे रहे हैं, आप सुनना ही नहीं चाहते।

श्री दीपांकर मुखर्जी: जवाब क्या दे रहे हैं? मैमोरेंडम क्या है, कब पैसा मिल रहा है, कितना मिल रहा है? यही तो पूछ रहे है। ...**(व्यवधान)**...

उपसभाध्यक्ष (कुमारी सरोज खापर्डे): मिस्टर बसु, मंत्री जी नए हैं इस हाऊस में। उन्होंने बहुत अच्छा जवाब दिया है अपने विषय का। ...(व्यवधान)...

श्री नीलोत्पल बसु: मैडम, मैं भी बहुत विनम्रता से सवाल पूछ रहा हूं।

उपसभाध्यक्ष (कुमारी सरोज खापर्डे): उसके बावजूद भी अगर आपको कुछ पूछना है या जो आपने पूछा है उसका आप जवाब चाहते हो तो चार-चार,पांच-पांच लोग इकट्ठे उठोगे तो उन्हें जवाब देने में आसानी नहीं होगी।

श्री नीलोत्पल बसु: हम भी तो झगड़ा नहीं करना चाहते, मैडम। ...**(व्यवधान)**...

उपसभाध्यक्ष (कुमारी सरोज खापर्डे): नहीं, आप झगड़ा नहीं कर रहे हैं। ...**(व्यवधान)**

श्री नीलोत्पल बसु: हमने जो बोला था, सारी स्टेट्स के बारे में बोला था। मैं समझता हूं इसकी गंभीरता को। ...**(व्यवधान)**

SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO: Madam, they want me to tell them how much money ...*(Interruptions)*

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE): One minute, please. He is replying.

SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO: I told them already about whatever is released. As for the latest reports, the reports have come only today and the action will be taken tomorrow or thereafter.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE): Okay, thank you. *(Interruptions)*. Mr. Bratin, please sit down.

Now we will take up the short-duration discussion on the recent steep hike in diesel price and the consequent hardship being faced by the people.

II. Recent steep hike in diesel price and the consequent hardships faced by people

श्री सुरेश पचौरी (मध्य प्रदेश): उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदया, डीजल के दामों में भारी वृद्धि के सिलसिले में शार्ट डयुरेशन के माध्यम से आपने जो मुझे बोलने की अनुमति प्रदान की है, इसके लिए मैं आभारी हूं। केन्द्र सरकार द्वारा तेरहवीं लोक सभा चुनाव के परिणामों का इंतजार किए बगैर आनन-फानन में चुपके से डीजल की कीमत बढ़ाने की जो घोषणा की गई, वह अत्यन्त अनुचित है। एक तरफ जब सारा देश चुनाव के परिणामों की प्रतीक्षा कर रहा था तो दूसरी तरफ काम चलाऊ केन्द्रीय सरकार ने इस अलोकप्रिय निर्णय की घोषणा की। इस निर्णय को लेते वक्त आने वाली सरकार का भी इंतजार नहीं किया गया, जो इस बात को दर्शाता है कि इनकी जनतांत्रिक प्रक्रिया में कोई आस्था नहीं है, जो आने वाली सरकार का इंतजार भी नहीं कर सकते थे।

महोदया, यह जो निर्णय है, जो डीजल के दामों में भारी वृद्धि की गई लगभग 35 प्रतिशत की, उसकी वजह से आम जनता पर निरंतर गाज गिर रही है। आम आदमी की उपभोक्ता चीजों की उपलब्धता पर भी प्रतिकूल प्रभाव पड़ रहा है। आम आदमी के उपयोग में आने वाली जो चीजें हैं उनकी कीमतों में बेतहाशा वृद्धि हो रही है और बाजार में आपूर्ति की कमी की वजह से बिचौलियों और दलालों की बन आई है। कई समाचार पत्रों ने तो यहां तक लिखा है कि यह बिचौलिए और दलाल वे लोग हैं, जिनसे इस सरकार के बैठे हुए लोगों ने चुनाव के समय चंदे की वसूली की थी। यह जो निर्णय है वह किसानों के हितों के बिल्कुल विपरीत है।

महोदया, यह जो सामान्य उपभोक्ता की चीजें हैं, इनके मूल्यों में वृद्धि के सिलसिले में वर्तमान प्रधान मंत्री ने भी समय-समय पर अपने भाषण में कहा है कि आनन फानन में, बगैर प्रतिपक्ष को विश्वास में लिए इस प्रकार की चीजों में कीमतों की वृद्धि नहीं की जानी चाहिए। मैं तिथि का उल्लेख करना चाहूंगा, जुलाई 1996 में स्वयं अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी जी का यह मत था कि जो सामान्य आदमी के उपभोग में आने वाली चीजें हैं उनके मूल्यों में वृद्धि इस तरीके से नहीं की जानी चाहिए कि आम आदमी की कमर टूट जाए, आम आदमी परेशान हो जाए या कीमतों की बेतहाशा वृद्धि की वजह से आम आदमी यह महसूस करने लगे कि उसका जीवन-यापन बहुत दूभर हो गया है।

महोदया, देश में पहले कभी ऐसी कोई भी सरकार नहीं बनी, जिसने डीजल की कीमत इस प्रकार अनाप-शनाप ढंग से 35 प्रतिशत बढ़ा दी हो। महोदया, जहां रेलवे ट्रेक नहीं हैं, जो पहाड़ी इलाके हैं, जहां प्राइवेट ट्रांसपोर्ट्स के जरिए लोग अपना सामान भेजते हैं, इस डीजल की कीमत की वृद्धि की वजह से वह सारे इलाके भी प्रभावित होंगे और वह लोग भी प्रभावित होंगे, जो इस प्रकार ट्रांसपोर्ट्स के जरिए अपना सामान भेजते हैं। इसलिए, महोदया, मेरा आपके माध्यम से सरकार से अनुरोध है कि डीज़ल की कीमतों में भारी वृद्धि की वजह से आम आदमी बुरे तरीके से प्रभावित हुआ है, जो आम आदमी के उपयोग में आने वाली चीजें हैं उनकी कीमतों में बेतहाशा वृद्धि हुई है, वह कई प्रकार की परेशानियों का सामना कर रहा है, लिहाज़ा यह सरकार अपना अड़ियलपन अलग करके, जिद्दी रवैया अख्तियार न करते हुए, जो डीज़ल की कीमतें बढ़ाने का निर्णय है, उसके बारे में पुनः विचार करे और इस वृद्धि को कम करे। बहुत-बहुत धन्यवाद।